FIRST COMICS
JUNE $1.00
NO. 3
$1.25 CANADA
E-MAN
Eraton
© FIRST COMICS, INC. 1983

FIRST NOTES

MOVING FORWARD, THE OTHER WAY

When we decided to take on the adaptation of the original Warp plays and add to the saga after completion, we rapidly recognized the need for a little "pre-quel" action as well. In the adaptation, we tell the story of David Carson – you **know** who he is and where he comes from. As the story unfolds, you learn a bit about Lugulbanda's past, and you get a basic understanding of the relationship between Cumulus and Chaos. But we have recognized the need to fill in a few blanks before moving forward with the Warp universe.

Instead of interrupting the Warp saga, we decided to do a couple of **Warp Specials**, the first of which is to be released next month, coming between the fourth and fifth issues of **Warp**. And we figured the origin of Chaos – Prince of Madness was the way to go.

Plotting the story was a gas. **Warp** scripter **Peter Gillis** and writer **John Ostrander** (whose first published comics work, the Sargon story in **Warp** #1, has generated a great deal of favorable mail) – himself an eleven year fan of the Warp plays – joined Associate Editor Rick Oliver and yours truly in my office for an extremely silly four hour editorial conference.

At the end of the meeting, there were four near-lifeless bodies thrown about, on the floor, slumped in chairs, bent under desks. There also was a hell of a plot . . . And a real weird origin story.

Looking for an artist for this story presented no small problem. Frank Brunner was tied up on the regular **Warp** comic book, and we thought we needed a different artist to give the book a feeling of "over-there" ness: it isn't **Warp**, it comes before **Warp**. Peter suggested **Gene Day**, a man whose work all of us in the room and at First Comics respected a great deal. We called Gene, he was intrigued by the story and quickly accepted the assignment. We were, to put it mildly, ecstatic.

Over the next month, Gene and I worked quite closely, going over reference material from the original plays and from Frank's work on **Warp**, going over Peter's polished plot, discussing the finer points of the script. It was a fine creative experience; Gene had a personal vision that would add greatly to the Warp universe.

Shortly before Gene was to start actually pencilling the story – he was finishing up an Indiana Jones job for Marvel – Gene died.

Of course, we were shocked, particularly fellow Canadian **George Freeman**, of Captain Canuck fame, who was looking forward to the opportunity to ink his friend's work.

Howard Chaykin, who was busy preparing the plot for the first several issues of his upcoming **American Flagg** monthly for First, stepped in and did a fantastic job: Howie's a real pro. He had long been a fan of the Warp plays, and he did his own unique interpretation of the material. Howard's work speaks for itself; you'll get your chance to see it next month.

But we're all still in a state of shock regarding the passing of Gene Day. More than merely wondering "what would have been" had Gene been allowed the opportunity to finish the work he started: Gene's death left behind a number of friends, old and new, and a hell of a lot of fans.

We never realized the first **Warp Special** would wind up being so . . . special.

BEATING A PATH TO YOUR DOOR . . .

The First Comics caravan travels on and on and on. Publisher Rich Obadiah and I joined Howard Chaykin and his wife Leslie Zahler at the Boston Newcon last week (as we reckon time – last November to you, buddy); our first major convention after the release of **Warp** #1. We'd been hearing great sales reports from sundry dealers, but hearing your comments in person was an experience we weren't totally prepared for. We thank you deeply.

We also thank convention promoters Don Phelps and Marty (Thunderbunny) Greim for putting on one of the finer conventions we've been to in years.

Upcoming appearances: **Mike Grell** will bring **John Sable, Freelance** to Texas and to Minnesota during the upcoming weeks: he'll be at Bob Wayne's Fantastic Worlds bookstore in the middle of the month, and he'll be at the Minneapolis comic book convention March 26-27. Having the actual date of Mike's Fantastic Worlds appearance would make life easier for all of us, but all we can do is suggest people call 817-731-6222 for more information.

Joe (E-Man) Staton and **Bruce (Warp) Patterson** will be at the March 6th Chicago Minicon at the Americana-Congress Hotel. Call 312-743-4493 for more information.

COUNTING NOSES

Warmest wishes to Dick Tracy/Mike Mist/Ms. Tree writer Max Collins and his wife Barbara on the birth of their first son – the little bugger was released the very same day **Warp** #1 first went on sale!

NEXT MONTH

Peter Gillis, Howard Chaykin and George Freeman present **Warp Special** #1: **CHAOS, Prince of Madness; Mike Barr** guest-writes **E-Man** #4, which includes a Michael Mauser solo story; and Mike Grell offers up a grisly tale of Skid Row death in **Jon Sable, Freelance** #2. See you then!

Mike Gold

ALSO FIRST IN FEBRUARY:

JON SABLE, FREELANCE #1: "The Iron Monster," premiering Mike Grell's latest creation. Bounty hunter, bodyguard, mercenary . . . Jon Sable takes on the assignment of protecting the most valuable man in America. Written, pencilled and inked by Mike Grell, you can meet **Jon Sable, Freelance** on this very same comics rack, right now!

WARP #4: "The Coming of – Xander!" Seeking vengeance upon both Prince Chaos and Lord Cumulus, Valaria brings forth the awesome menace of Xander the Unconquerable; all from the minds of Frank Brunner, Peter Gillis and Bruce Patterson. And concluding the Jack C. Harris/Steve Ditko Faceless Ones thriller, "Faces Before the Masque," as even Lugulbanda joins in the fray!

Rick Obadiah, Publisher

Mike Gold, Managing Editor
Joe Staton, Art Director
Rick Oliver, Associate Editor
Bruce Patterson, Production Coordinator

Richard Felber, Business Manager
Kathy Kotsivas, Office Manager

E-MAN™ COMICS, Vol. 1, No. 3, June 1983. Published by FIRST COMICS, INC., Mike Gold, President; Rick Obadiah, Secretary; Richard Felber, Treasurer; Kenneth F. Levin and Ralph C. Musicant, Directors. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 1014 Davis Street, Evanston IL 60201. Published monthly. Copyright © 1983 First Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. Price: $1.00 in the U.S., $1.25 in Canada. Subscription rates for twelve issues: $11.00 in the U.S., $13.75 in Canada, and $27.00 foreign rate. All payments must be in U.S. funds. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, without satiric content are intended or should be inferred. E-Man, Alec Tronn, Nova Kane, Michael Mauser, Teddy Q., and all prominent characters featured in this issue, and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of First Comics, Inc. Printed by World Color Press. Printed in the U.S.A. All thoughts while reading this book copyright 1984 First Think, Inc. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to First Comics, Inc., 1014 Davis St. Evanston IL 60201.

A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION

HALLO, UND VELCOME TO ANODDER CRAZY E-MAN STORY. I'M DER GHOST OF ALBERT EINSTEIN --JA, DOT'S RIGHT, DER AHYZZIC/ST.
IN CASE YOU NEVER SAW VUN OF DESE STORIES BEFORE, I'M DER NARRATOR OF DIS HERE COMICAL BOOK SERIES...
...UND HOO-BOY, HAFF VE GOT A STORY FOR YOU OZ TIME! IT'S ABOUT DESE-- HAH?
VOT'S DOT YOU SAYINK?... VOT ABOUT DER WHO? ...OH, DER PEOPLE IN DIS HERE PARK--!
NEVER MIND ABOUT DEM. ONLY YOU UND DER KOALA BEAR CAN SEE OR HEAR ME...
LOOSE JOINTS...? LOOSE JOINTS...?
CONN. TURN-PIKE TOKENS 10¢
RAFFLE: WIN A DeLOREAN SNOW MOBILE!
...I'M A GHOST-- REMEMBER?
BESIDES, DERE ARE ZO MANY VEIRD TYINGS ON DER STREETS OF NEW YORK--ESPEZIALLY IN GREENVICH VILLAGE...
LOOSE JOINTS...?
NO, I JUST WALK FUNNY.
...DOT DEY VOULDN'T PAY NO ATTENZHUN TO ME EVEN IFF DEY COULD SEE ME.
KANE/TROMN
ANYWAY... I'M DER NARRATOR OF DESE STORIES. UZUALLY.
BUT DIS IS A VERY UNUSUAL STORY--CHUST LIKE LAZT ISSUE'S. IT'S ABOUT DER F-MEN...
...WHO STARTED OUT AS COMICAL BOOK CHARACTERS BEFORE DEY VERE BROUGHT TO LIFE!
VE GOT VHAT YOU MIGHT CALL A COMICAL BOOK MOTIF GOINK HERE.
ZO I'M GOINK TO LET DIS STORY BE TOLD LIKE A REGULAR COMICAL BOOK..
THUD KRASS!
--MIDOUT MY DISTINKTIFF NARRATIFF VOICE MIXINK IN ALL DER TIME. SO G'WAN-- ENCHOY.
BESIDES, I GOT A DAZED KOALA TO TAKE CARE OF HERE.
I KEEP FORGETTINK ONLY I CAN GO TROUGH TINKS. SORRY ABOUT DOT...
F-MEN

When alien energy-being ***Alec Tronn*** dons his orange and yellow fighting togs, he becomes the world's most physically-impossible super-hero!

RICK OBADIAH PRESENTS: THE PREPOSTEROUS E-MAN!™

CREATED BY: NICOLA CUTI & JOE STATON

MARTIN PASKO PLOTTER & WRITER · JOE STATON ARTIST · WENDY FIORE COLORIST · KEN BRUZENAK LETTERER · MIKE GOLD EDITOR

Dark Albatross must be Rendered Inoperative, Lifewise

THE STATELY OLD MANSION THAT STANDS LIKE A SILENT SENTINEL ON CLICHE COURT OUTSIDE THE CHESTERFIELD COUNTY TOWNSHIP OF MARLBORO CORNERS IS THE HEADQUARTERS OF DR. FAIRMONT'S ACADEMY FOR PRECIOUS ADOLESCENTS.

WHO DOES THIS FAIRMONT CHARACTER THINK HE IS?

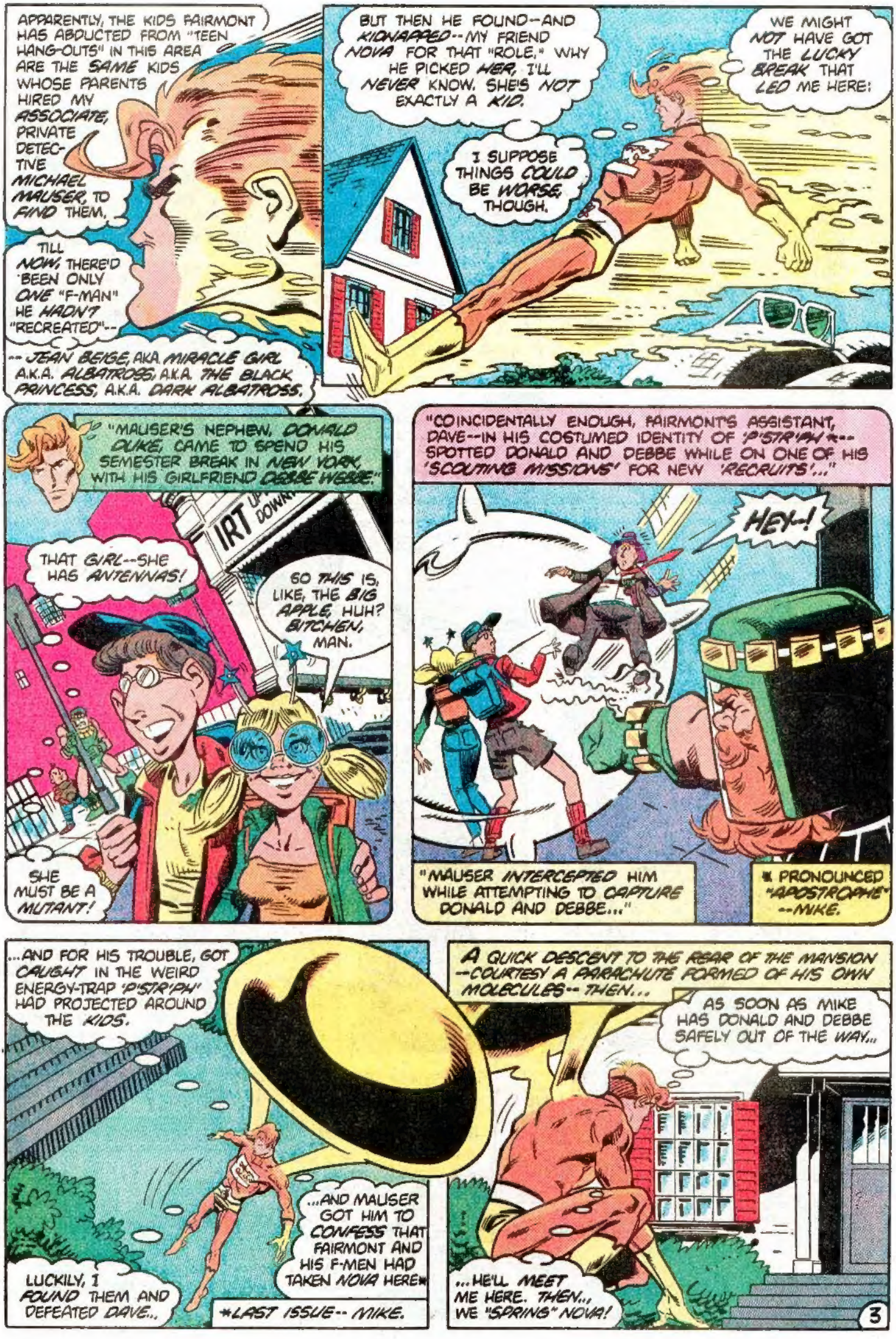
WHERE DOES HE GET OFF KIDNAPPING PEOPLE JUST TO SATISFY HIS OWN EGO?

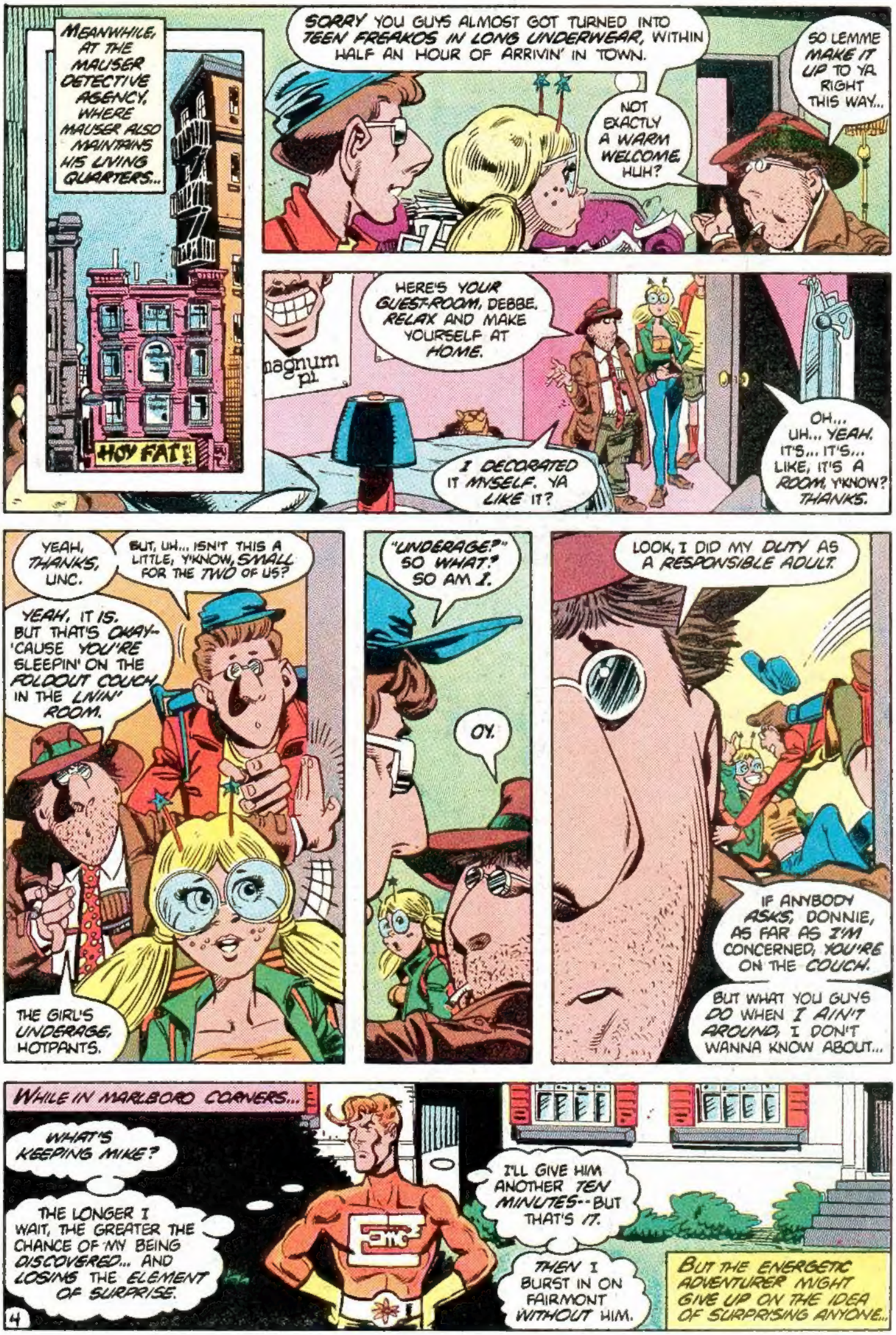
THE ENERGY BEING THAT CAN TURN THAT ENERGY INTO MATTER, AND VICE-VERSA--AND ASSUME ANY SHAPE--WHO NOW STREAKS TOWARD THE MANSION--HIS BODY ASSUMING THE FORM AND SUBSTANCE OF A COMET--IS E-MAN.

HE DOES NOT QUITE KNOW WHAT HE WILL FIND THERE.

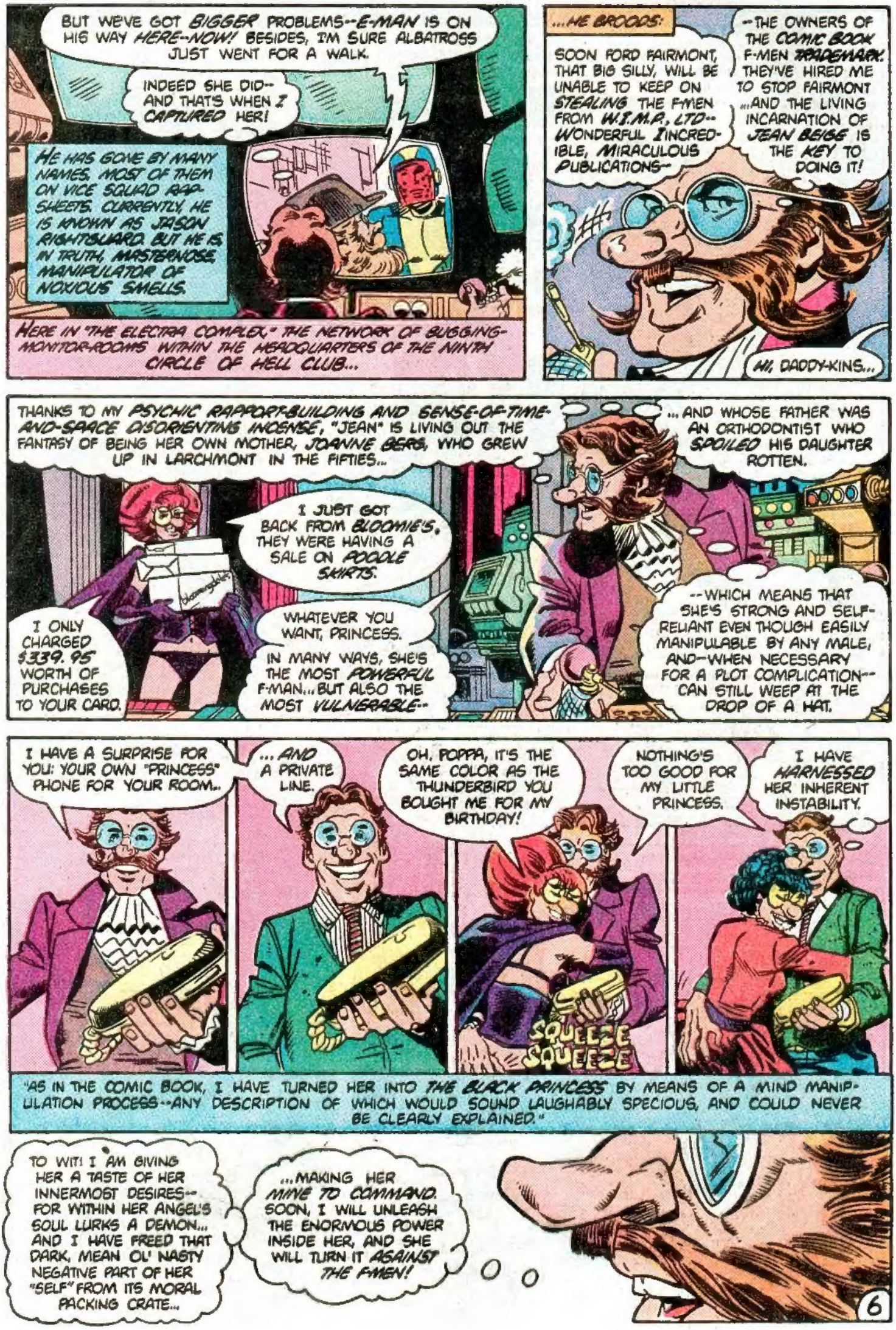
HE KNOWS ONLY THAT FORD FAIRMONT, PH.D.--CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF PARA-SIGHT INDUSTRIES, MAKERS OF "COMPUTERIZED LIFE-STYLE AIDES FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED"--HAS BEEN KIDNAPPING MUTANT YOUNG PERSONS WITH SUPERNORMAL ABILITIES, IN ORDER TO TRANSFORM THEM INTO A REAL-LIFE VERSION OF A COMIC BOOK SUPER-HERO GROUP CALLED THE F-MEN.

AFTER HE FINDS WHATEVER HE WILL FIND HERE, HIS LIFE WILL CHANGE. AND NOTHING ABOUT IT WILL EVER BE THE SAME AGAIN.

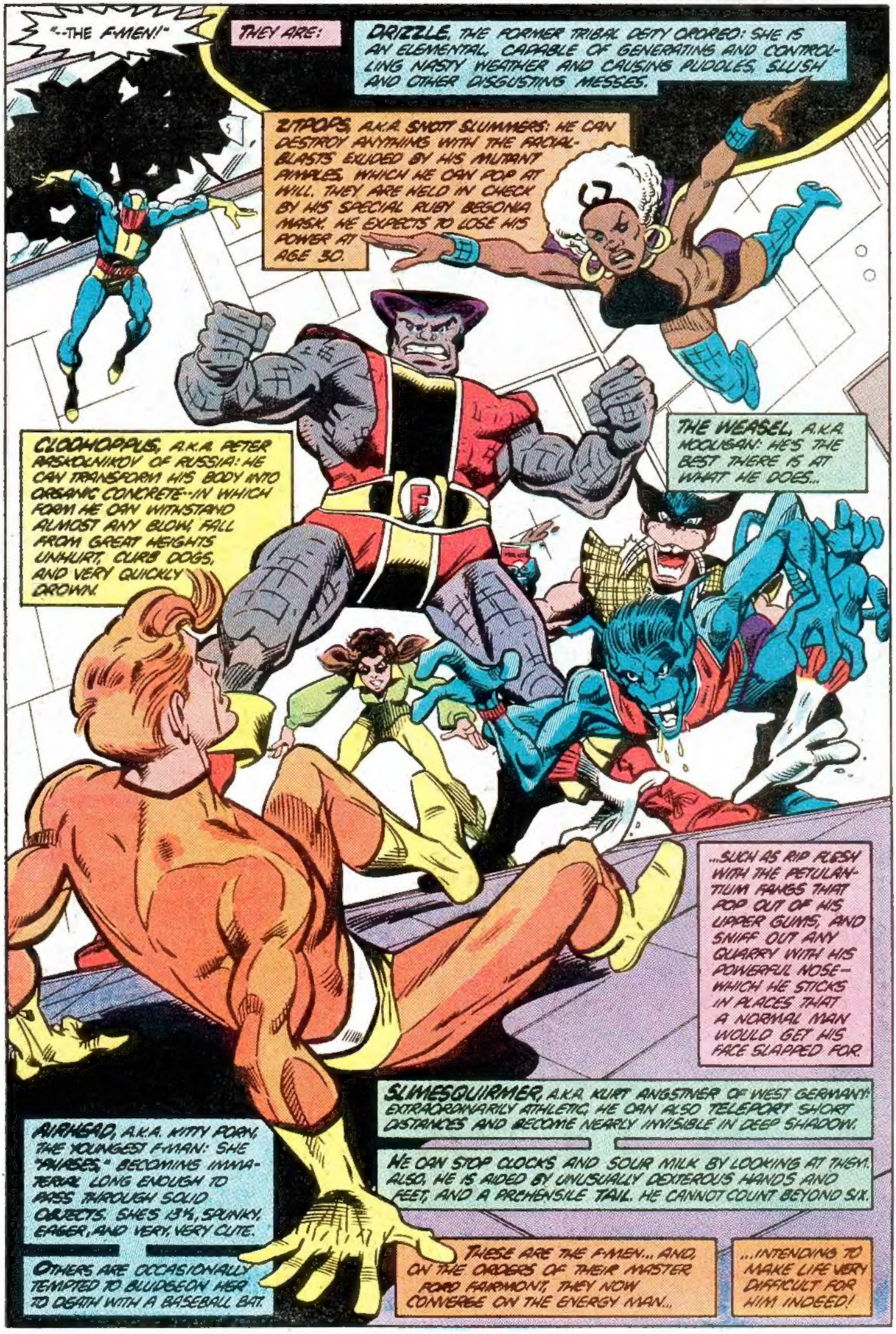

APPARENTLY, THE KIDS FAIRMONT HAS ABDUCTED FROM "TEEN HANG-OUTS" IN THIS AREA ARE THE SAME KIDS WHOSE PARENTS HIRED MY ASSOCIATE, PRIVATE DETECTIVE MICHAEL MAUSER, TO FIND THEM.
TILL NOW, THERE'D BEEN ONLY ONE "F-MAN" HE HADN'T "RECREATED"--
-- JEAN BEIGE, AKA MIRACLE GIRL A.K.A. ALBATROSS, A.K.A. THE BLACK PRINCESS, A.K.A. DARK ALBATROSS.
BUT THEN HE FOUND--AND KIDNAPPED--MY FRIEND NOVA FOR THAT "ROLE," WHY HE PICKED HER, I'LL NEVER KNOW. SHE'S NOT EXACTLY A KID.
I SUPPOSE THINGS COULD BE WORSE, THOUGH.
WE MIGHT NOT HAVE GOT THE LUCKY BREAK THAT LED ME HERE:
"MAUSER'S NEPHEW, DONALD DUKE, CAME TO SPEND HIS SEMESTER BREAK IN NEW YORK, WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND DEBBE WEBBE."
IRT UP DOWN
THAT GIRL--SHE HAS ANTENNAS!
SO THIS IS, LIKE, THE BIG APPLE, HUH? BITCHEN, MAN.
SHE MUST BE A MUTANT!
"COINCIDENTALLY ENOUGH, FAIRMONT'S ASSISTANT, DAVE--IN HIS COSTUMED IDENTITY OF 'P'STR'PH'*--SPOTTED DONALD AND DEBBE WHILE ON ONE OF HIS 'SCOUTING MISSIONS' FOR NEW 'RECRUITS'..."
HEY--!
"MAUSER INTERCEPTED HIM WHILE ATTEMPTING TO CAPTURE DONALD AND DEBBE..."
* PRONOUNCED "APOSTROPHE" --MIKE.
...AND FOR HIS TROUBLE, GOT CAUGHT IN THE WEIRD ENERGY-TRAP 'P'STR'PH' HAD PROJECTED AROUND THE KIDS.
LUCKILY, I FOUND THEM AND DEFEATED DAVE...
...AND MAUSER GOT HIM TO CONFESS THAT FAIRMONT AND HIS F-MEN HAD TAKEN NOVA HERE*
*LAST ISSUE-- MIKE.
A QUICK DESCENT TO THE REAR OF THE MANSION --COURTESY A PARACHUTE FORMED OF HIS OWN MOLECULES-- THEN...
AS SOON AS MIKE HAS DONALD AND DEBBE SAFELY OUT OF THE WAY...
...HE'LL MEET ME HERE. THEN... WE "SPRING" NOVA!
3


MEANWHILE, AT THE MAUSER DETECTIVE AGENCY, WHERE MAUSER ALSO MAINTAINS HIS LIVING QUARTERS...
HOY FAT
SORRY YOU GUYS ALMOST GOT TURNED INTO TEEN FREAKOS IN LONG UNDERWEAR, WITHIN HALF AN HOUR OF ARRIVIN' IN TOWN.
NOT EXACTLY A WARM WELCOME, HUH?
SO LEMME MAKE IT UP TO YA RIGHT THIS WAY...
magnum pi
HERE'S YOUR GUEST-ROOM, DEBBE. RELAX AND MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
I DECORATED IT MYSELF. YA LIKE IT?
OH... UH... YEAH. IT'S... IT'S... LIKE, IT'S A ROOM, Y'KNOW? THANKS.
YEAH, THANKS, UNC.
BUT, UH... ISN'T THIS A LITTLE, Y'KNOW, SMALL FOR THE TWO OF US?
YEAH, IT IS. BUT THAT'S OKAY-- 'CAUSE YOU'RE SLEEPIN' ON THE FOLDOUT COUCH IN THE LIVIN' ROOM.
THE GIRL'S UNDERAGE, HOTPANTS.
"UNDERAGE?" SO WHAT." SO AM I.
OY.
LOOK, I DID MY DUTY AS A RESPONSIBLE ADULT.
IF ANYBODY ASKS, DONNIE, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU'RE ON THE COUCH.
BUT WHAT YOU GUYS DO WHEN I AIN'T AROUND, I DON'T WANNA KNOW ABOUT...
WHILE IN MARLBORO COMERS...
WHAT'S KEEPING MIKE?
THE LONGER I WAIT, THE GREATER THE CHANCE OF MY BEING DISCOVERED... AND LOSING THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.
I'LL GIVE HIM ANOTHER TEN MINUTES-- BUT THAT'S IT.
THEN I BURST IN ON FAIRMONT WITHOUT HIM.
BUT THE ENERGETIC ADVENTURER MIGHT GIVE UP ON THE IDEA OF SURPRISING ANYONE...
4

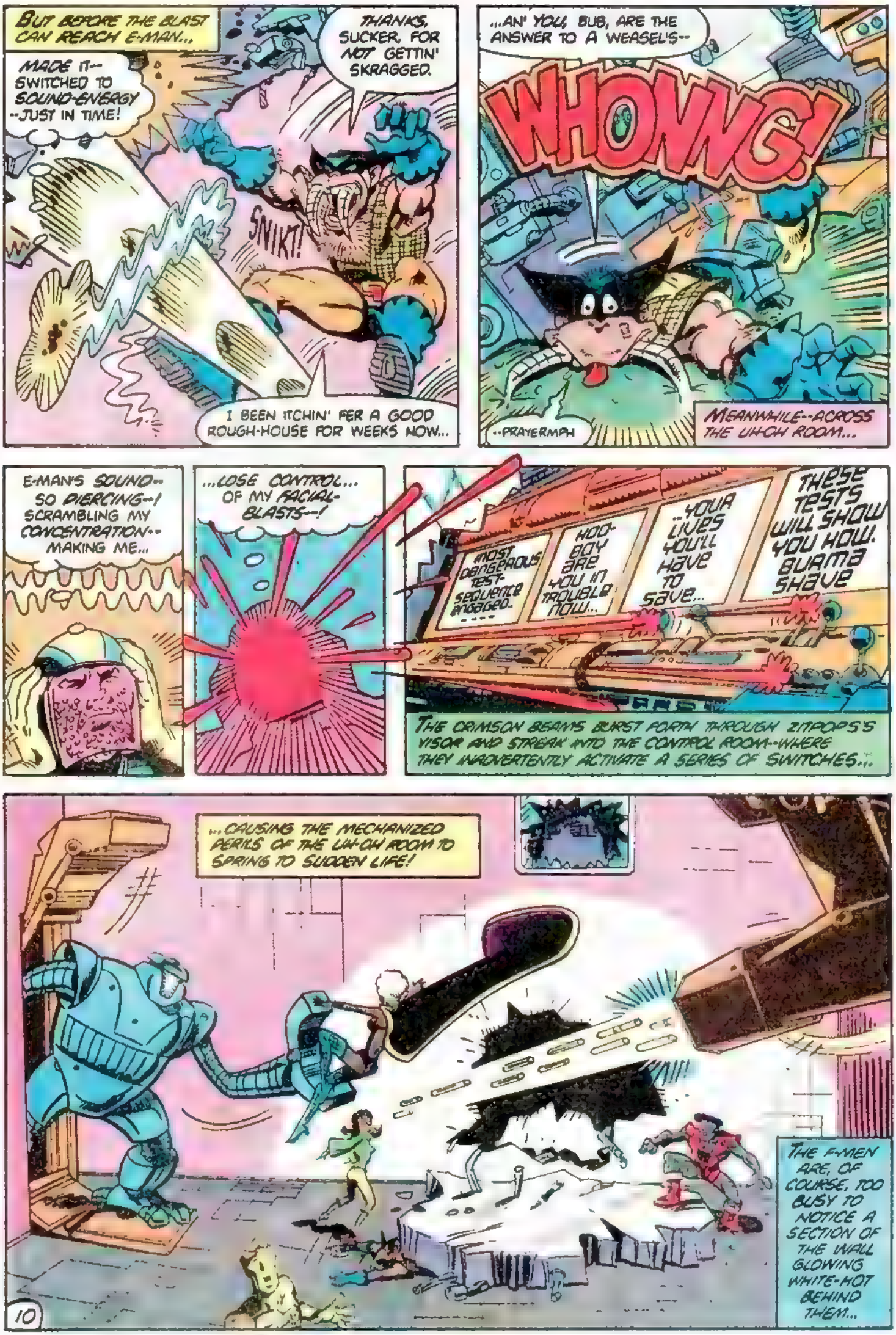
...COULD HE KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW IN MAUSER'S OFFICE, WHERE DAVE HAD BEEN LEFT BOUND AND GAGGED.
IT SEEMS FAIRMONT'S ASSISTANT IS AS RESOURCEFUL AS HOUDINI!
SO...YA HAD A MINIATURE WALKIE-TALKIE STASHED ON YA, EH?
DAVE TO DR. FAIRMONT... COME IN, DR. FAIRMONT...!!
OWWW!
KRUNCH
WHADDYA THINK YER DOIN', JERK-FACE?
YANK
JU-JU-JUST APOLOGIZIN' TO MY BOSS.
I HADDA TELL HIM THAT E-MAN HAS FOUND OUT WHERE HE IS, AN--
YOU DID WHAT?!
ZOOM
AT THAT MOMENT, IN FORD FAIRMONT'S PRIVATE LAB...
DR. F! DR. F!
DAVE...? DAVE?! DAVE!!
WE'VE BEEN CUT OFF!
IT'S ALBATROSS, SIR--SHE'S GONE!
I'VE SEARCHED ALL OVER THE ESTATE, BUT SHE'S GONE--MY BELOVED JEAN IS GONE! WE'VE GOT TO FIND HER, DR. F! SHE'S EVERYTHING TO ME--
I KNOW, I KNOW, YOU IDIOT...
SHE'S IMPORTANT TO ME, TOO, CARING-WISE.
5

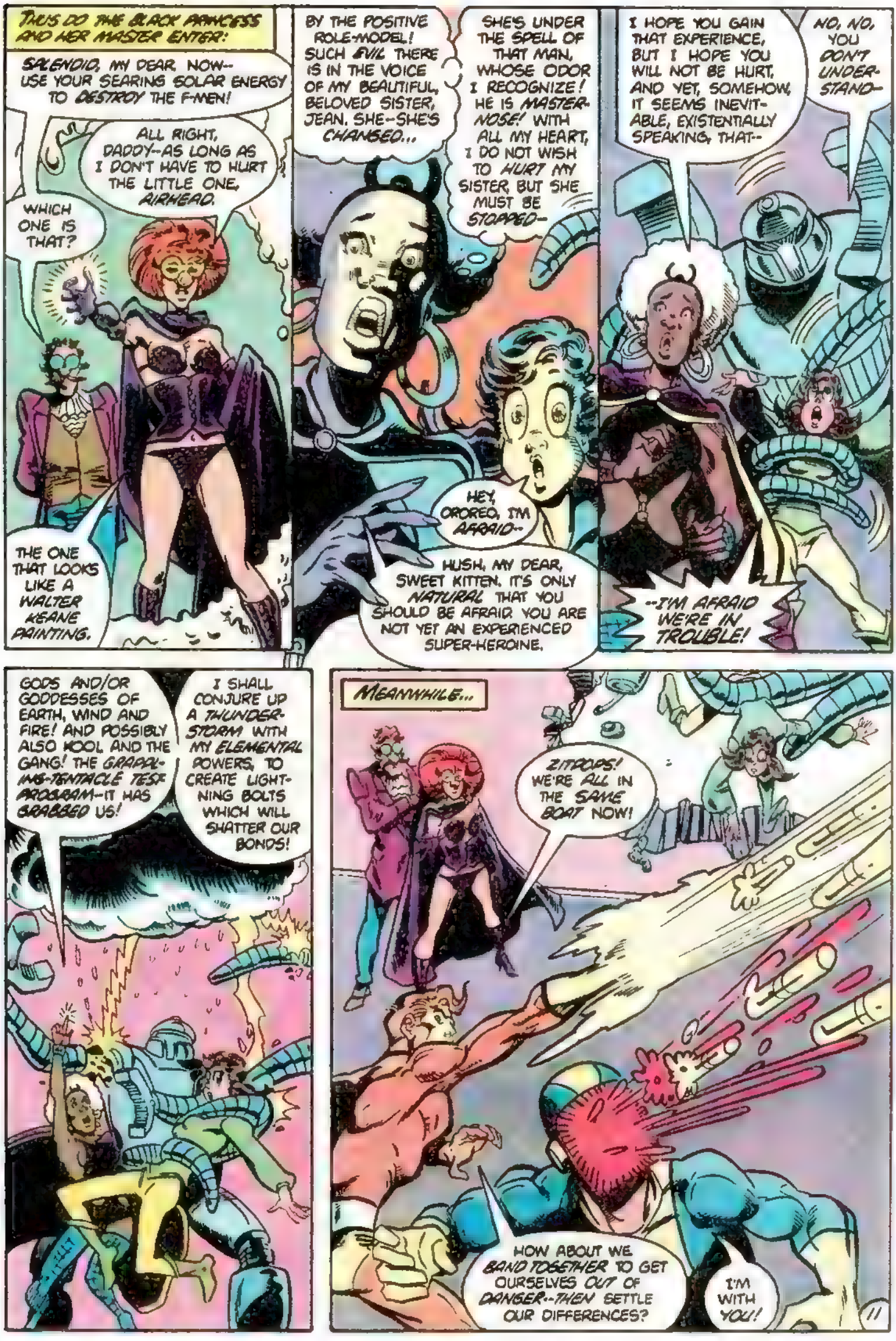

BUT WE'VE GOT BIGGER PROBLEMS--E-MAN IS ON HIS WAY HERE--NOW! BESIDES, I'M SURE ALBATROSS JUST WENT FOR A WALK.
INDEED SHE DID--AND THAT'S WHEN I CAPTURED HER!
HE HAS GONE BY MANY NAMES, MOST OF THEM ON VICE SQUAD RAP-SHEETS. CURRENTLY, HE IS KNOWN AS JASON RIGHTGUARD. BUT HE IS, IN TRUTH, MASTERNOSE, MANIPULATOR OF NOXIOUS SMELLS.
HERE IN "THE ELECTRA COMPLEX," THE NETWORK OF BUGGING-MONITOR-ROOMS WITHIN THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NINTH CIRCLE OF HELL CLUB...
...HE BROODS:
SOON FORD FAIRMONT, THAT BIG SILLY, WILL BE UNABLE TO KEEP ON STEALING THE F-MEN FROM W.I.M.P., LTD--WONDERFUL INCREDIBLE, MIRACULOUS PUBLICATIONS--
--THE OWNERS OF THE COMIC BOOK F-MEN TRADEMARK. THEY'VE HIRED ME TO STOP FAIRMONT ...AND THE LIVING INCARNATION OF JEAN BEIGE IS THE KEY TO DOING IT!
HI, DADDY-KINS...
THANKS TO MY PSYCHIC RAPPORT-BUILDING AND SENSE-OF-TIME-AND-SPACE DISORIENTING INCENSE, "JEAN" IS LIVING OUT THE FANTASY OF BEING HER OWN MOTHER, JOANNE BERG, WHO GREW UP IN LARCHMONT IN THE FIFTIES...
I JUST GOT BACK FROM BLOOMIE'S. THEY WERE HAVING A SALE ON POODLE SKIRTS.
I ONLY CHARGED $339.95 WORTH OF PURCHASES TO YOUR CARD.
WHATEVER YOU WANT, PRINCESS.
IN MANY WAYS, SHE'S THE MOST POWERFUL F-MAN... BUT ALSO THE MOST VULNERABLE--
...AND WHOSE FATHER WAS AN ORTHODONTIST WHO SPOILED HIS DAUGHTER ROTTEN.
--WHICH MEANS THAT SHE'S STRONG AND SELF-RELIANT EVEN THOUGH EASILY MANIPULABLE BY ANY MALE, AND--WHEN NECESSARY FOR A PLOT COMPLICATION--CAN STILL WEEP AT THE DROP OF A HAT.
I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU: YOUR OWN "PRINCESS" PHONE FOR YOUR ROOM..
...AND A PRIVATE LINE.
OH, POPPA, IT'S THE SAME COLOR AS THE THUNDERBIRD YOU BOUGHT ME FOR MY BIRTHDAY!
SQUEEZE SQUEEZE
NOTHING'S TOO GOOD FOR MY LITTLE PRINCESS.
I HAVE HARNESSED HER INHERENT INSTABILITY.
"AS IN THE COMIC BOOK, I HAVE TURNED HER INTO THE BLACK PRINCESS BY MEANS OF A MIND MANIPULATION PROCESS--ANY DESCRIPTION OF WHICH WOULD SOUND LAUGHABLY SPECIOUS, AND COULD NEVER BE CLEARLY EXPLAINED."
TO WIT! I AM GIVING HER A TASTE OF HER INNERMOST DESIRES--FOR WITHIN HER ANGEL'S SOUL LURKS A DEMON... AND I HAVE FREED THAT DARK, MEAN OL' NASTY NEGATIVE PART OF HER "SELF" FROM ITS MORAL PACKING CRATE...
...MAKING HER MINE TO COMMAND. SOON, I WILL UNLEASH THE ENORMOUS POWER INSIDE HER, AND SHE WILL TURN IT AGAINST THE F-MEN!
6

MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE FORD FAIRMONT'S MANSION...
TIME'S UP-- CAN'T WAIT FOR MAUSER ANYMORE.
GOT TO GO IN ALONE--!
PRESENTLY, IN THE CONTROL-ROOM OVERLOOKING THE MANSION'S UH-OH ROOM...
...WHERE A SERIES OF IMPROBABLE MECHANICAL DEVICES COMPRISE A GAUNTLET OF DANGERS DESIGNED TO HONE THE F-MEN'S FIGHTING SKILLS TO A RAZOR-SHARP EDGE...
WE CAN LOOK FOR ALBATROSS LATER, SNOTT--
BUT... BUT... I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT HER!
I MUST KNOW WHERE SHE IS-- NOW!
FUNNY YOU SHOULD SAY THAT--
--BECAUSE THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANT TO KNOW, TOO!
THAT VOICE-- I KNOW IT, RECOGNITION-WISE! IT MUST BE... E-PERSON --I MEAN E-MAN.
OR MAYBE RICH LITTLE.
NO, IT'S E-MAN, ALL RIGHT.
THEN HE MUSTN'T LEAVE HERE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT WE'RE ATTEMPTING TO DO--!
DON'T WORRY, DR. F-- I'LL STOP HIM--
--WITH MY FACIAL BLASTS!!
DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO TURN BACK INTO ENERGY--!
HE'S BLASTING ME RIGHT THROUGH THIS PROTECTIVE PLEXIGLAS SHIELD!
ONLY ONE WAY TO AVOID BEING SPLATTERED ALL OVER THE HARD-WOOD FLOOR:
TURN MYSELF INTO A RUBBER BALL AND BOUNCE INSTEAD OF BREAK!
BUT AS SOON AS HE COMES TO REST...
UH-OH--
HMM... NO WONDER THEY CALL THIS PLACE THE "UH-OH ROOM."
--IT'S YOU GUYS AGAIN--
7


"--THE F-MEN!"
THEY ARE:
DRIZZLE, THE FORMER TRIBAL DEITY ORORBO: SHE IS AN ELEMENTAL, CAPABLE OF GENERATING AND CONTROLLING NASTY WEATHER AND CAUSING PUDDLES, SLUSH AND OTHER DISGUSTING MESSES.
ZITPOPS, A.K.A. SNOTT SLUMMERS: HE CAN DESTROY ANYTHING WITH THE FACIAL-BLASTS EXUDED BY HIS MUTANT ZITPLES, WHICH HE CAN POP AT WILL. THEY ARE HELD IN CHECK BY HIS SPECIAL RUBY BEGONIA MASK. HE EXPECTS TO LOSE HIS POWER AT AGE 30.
CLODHOPPUS, A.K.A. PETER RASKOLNIKOV OF RUSSIA: HE CAN TRANSFORM HIS BODY INTO ORGANIC CONCRETE--IN WHICH FORM HE CAN WITHSTAND ALMOST ANY BLOW, FALL FROM GREAT HEIGHTS UNHURT, CURB DOGS, AND VERY QUICKLY DROWN.
THE WEASEL, A.K.A. NOOLIGAN: HE'S THE BEST THERE IS AT WHAT HE DOES...
...SUCH AS RIP FLESH WITH THE PETULANTIUM FANGS THAT POP OUT OF HIS UPPER GUMS, AND SNIFF OUT ANY QUARRY WITH HIS POWERFUL NOSE--WHICH HE STICKS IN PLACES THAT A NORMAL MAN WOULD GET HIS FACE SLAPPED FOR.
SLIMESQUIRMER, A.K.A. KURT ANGSTNER OF WEST GERMANY: EXTRAORDINARILY ATHLETIC, HE CAN ALSO TELEPORT SHORT DISTANCES AND BECOME NEARLY INVISIBLE IN DEEP SHADOW.
HE CAN STOP CLOCKS AND SOUR MILK BY LOOKING AT THEM. ALSO, HE IS AIDED BY UNUSUALLY DEXTEROUS HANDS AND FEET, AND A PREHENSILE TAIL. HE CANNOT COUNT BEYOND SIX.
AIRHEAD, A.K.A. KITTY PORN, THE YOUNGEST F-MAN: SHE "PHASES," BECOMING IMMATERIAL LONG ENOUGH TO PASS THROUGH SOLID OBJECTS. SHE'S 13¾, SPUNKY, EAGER, AND VERY, VERY CUTE.
OTHERS ARE OCCASIONALLY TEMPTED TO BLUDGEON HER TO DEATH WITH A BASEBALL BAT.
THESE ARE THE F-MEN... AND, ON THE ORDERS OF THEIR MASTER ROAD FAIRMONT, THEY NOW CONVERGE ON THE ENERGY MAN...
...INTENDING TO MAKE LIFE VERY DIFFICULT FOR HIM INDEED!

WHILE OUTSIDE--UNAWARE OF THE BATTLE THAT IS ABOUT TO RAGE WITHIN...
WHAT IS THIS PLACE YOU'VE BROUGHT ME TO IN THE NINTH CIRCLE OF HELL CLUB'S HOVERCRAFT, DADDY-KINS?
DR. FAIRMONT'S MANSION, PRINCESS--
--WHERE YOU WILL HELP ME CARRY OUT PHASE TWO OF OUR PLAN: WE WILL KIDNAP THE F-MEN...
"...SO WE CAN BRAINWASH THEM INTO ABANDONING THEIR F-MEN IDENTITIES, AND NO LONGER INFRINGE W.I.M.P.'S TRADEMARK."
"OH."
TAKE ONE MORE STEP, F-MEN, AND I'LL FIRE ONE OF MY ENERGY-BOLTS.
IT WON'T BE FUN.
YOU CANNOT FRIGHTEN THE F-MEN, MEIN "FREUND."
OH, MY GOSH! HERE I AM, KITTY PORN, FIGHTING E-MAN ALONGSIDE THE F-MEN. AND I'M SCARED. BUT SHOULD I BE SCARED? I DON'T WANT TO LET THE F-MEN DOWN. GEE, I'M SCARED OF BEING SCARED...
SLIMESQUIRMER! BE CAREFUL, TOVARISCH!
I DO NOT WISH TO HURT THIS E-MAN. IN MY CEMENT BRAIN, I REALIZE WE MUST, TO SAVE OURSELVES...
...BUT IN MY CONCRETE HEART, I AM SEETHING WITH FRUSTRATION AND REGRET, FOR--
EH?
E-MAN FIRES. BUT SUDDENLY, WITH A STENCH OF SULPHUR AND BRIMSTONE, SLIMESQUIRMER TELEPORTS ELSEWHERE, AND...
FOOM!
BY THE BIG ALBINO DOG! THE ENERGY-BOLT--COMING STRAIGHT AT ME!
YOUR BLASTS CANNOT HURT ONE WHOSE BODY IS AS JIMMY HOFFA'S GALOSHES, ENERGY-MAN!
BUT YOU SHALL BE HURT--FOR MY BODY CAN REPEL YOUR BLAST BACK AT YOU!
YIPE!
9


BUT BEFORE THE BLAST CAN REACH E-MAN...
MADE IT-- SWITCHED TO SOUND-ENERGY --JUST IN TIME!
THANKS, SUCKER, FOR NOT GETTIN' SKRAGGED.
SNIKT!
I BEEN ITCHIN' FER A GOOD ROUGH-HOUSE FOR WEEKS NOW...
...AN' YOU, BUB, ARE THE ANSWER TO A WEASEL'S--
WHONG!
--PRAYERMPH
MEANWHILE--ACROSS THE UH-OH ROOM...
E-MAN'S SOUND-- SO PIERCING--! SCRAMBLING MY CONCENTRATION-- MAKING ME...
...LOSE CONTROL... OF MY FACIAL-BLASTS--!
MOST DANGEROUS TEST-SEQUENCE ENGAGED.
HOO-BOY ARE YOU IN TROUBLE NOW...
...YOUR LIVES YOU'LL HAVE TO SAVE...
THESE TESTS WILL SHOW YOU HOW. BUAMA SHAVE
THE CRIMSON BEAMS BURST FORTH THROUGH ZITPOPS'S VISOR AND STREAK INTO THE CONTROL ROOM--WHERE THEY INADVERTENTLY ACTIVATE A SERIES OF SWITCHES...
...CAUSING THE MECHANIZED AERIALS OF THE UH-OH ROOM TO SPRING TO SUDDEN LIFE!
THE F-MEN ARE, OF COURSE, TOO BUSY TO NOTICE A SECTION OF THE WALL GLOWING WHITE-HOT BEHIND THEM...

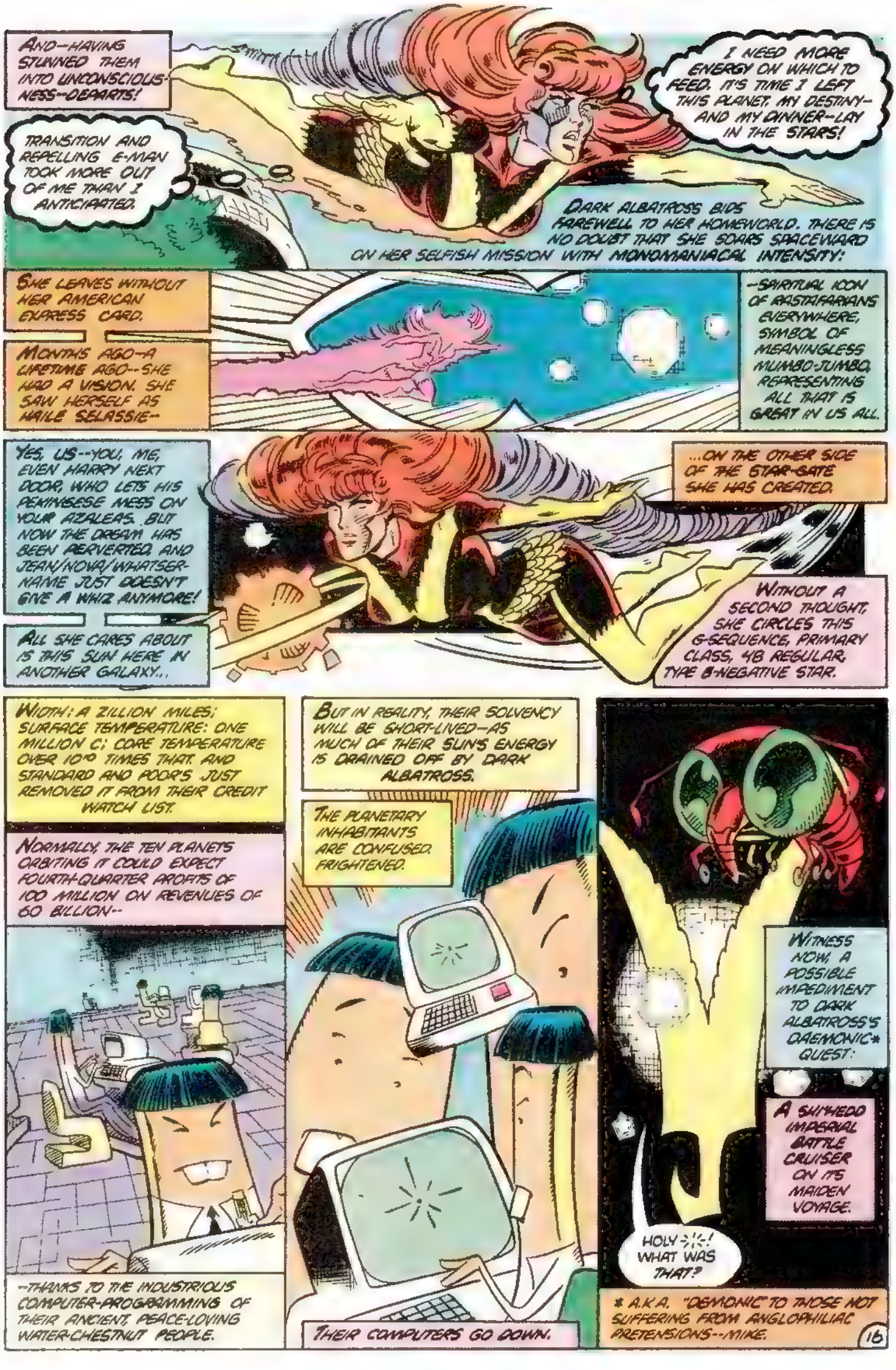

THUS DO THE BLACK PRINCESS AND HER MASTER ENTER:
SPLENDID, MY DEAR. NOW--USE YOUR SEARING SOLAR ENERGY TO DESTROY THE F-MEN!
ALL RIGHT, DADDY--AS LONG AS I DON'T HAVE TO HURT THE LITTLE ONE, AIRHEAD.
WHICH ONE IS THAT?
THE ONE THAT LOOKS LIKE A WALTER KEANE PAINTING.
BY THE POSITIVE ROLE-MODEL! SUCH EVIL THERE IS IN THE VOICE OF MY BEAUTIFUL, BELOVED SISTER, JEAN. SHE--SHE'S CHANGED...
SHE'S UNDER THE SPELL OF THAT MAN, WHOSE ODOR I RECOGNIZE! HE IS MASTER-NOSE! WITH ALL MY HEART, I DO NOT WISH TO HURT MY SISTER, BUT SHE MUST BE STOPPED--
HEY, ORORO, I'M AFRAID--
HUSH, MY DEAR, SWEET KITTEN. IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT YOU SHOULD BE AFRAID. YOU ARE NOT YET AN EXPERIENCED SUPER-HEROINE.
I HOPE YOU GAIN THAT EXPERIENCE, BUT I HOPE YOU WILL NOT BE HURT, AND YET, SOMEHOW, IT SEEMS INEVITABLE, EXISTENTIALLY SPEAKING, THAT--
NO, NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--
--I'M AFRAID WE'RE IN TROUBLE!
GODS AND/OR GODDESSES OF EARTH, WIND AND FIRE! AND POSSIBLY ALSO KOOL AND THE GANG! THE GRAPPLING-TENTACLE TEST-PROGRAM--IT HAS GRABBED US!
I SHALL CONJURE UP A THUNDER-STORM WITH MY ELEMENTAL POWERS, TO CREATE LIGHTNING BOLTS WHICH WILL SHATTER OUR BONDS!
MEANWHILE...
ZITROPS! WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT NOW!
HOW ABOUT WE BAND TOGETHER TO GET OURSELVES OUT OF DANGER--THEN SETTLE OUR DIFFERENCES?
I'M WITH YOU!
11

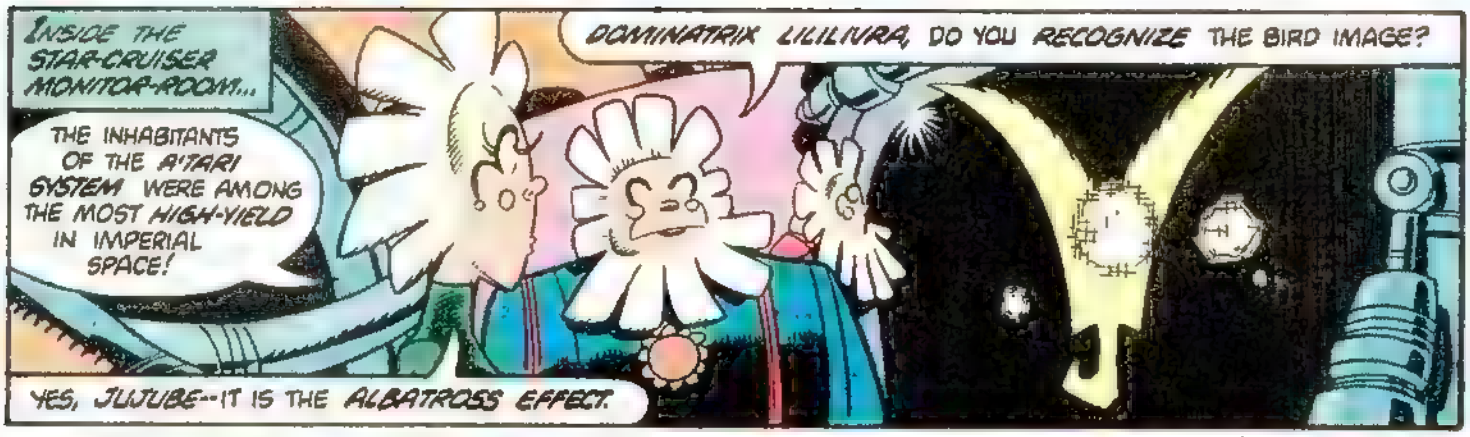
IT APPEARS THESE F-MEN AREN'T GOING TO BE DEFEATED BY THE UH-OH ROOM GIMMICKS. NOT GOOD.
I SUPPOSE WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THEM OUT PERSONALLY, YES, PRINCESS?
BONK
YES, DADDY. FIRST, I'LL TEMPORARILY BLIND THEM, SO THEY BANG INTO EACH OTHER.
BUT SUDDENLY, THE SIGHT OF E-MAN AND ZITPOPS--BOTH BELOVED TO DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE NOVA/JEAN BEIGE PERSONAE--IS DOUBLY TRAUMATIC (FOR THE MUTANT-ENERGIZING PROCESS THAT TRANSFORMED NOVA "IMPRINTS" THE "MEMORIES" OF THE FICTIONAL CHARACTER OVER THE SUBJECT'S OWN), AND...
NO...NO!
SNOTT, YOU CAN'T BE HURT! YOU MUSTN'T BE! I LOVE YOU--I'VE LOVED YOU EVER SINCE THAT DAY IN BUTTE, MONTANA...
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO EAT?
POSITIVE. I'D RATHER BROOD.
KILLJOY. WELL, IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO EAT, GIVE ME YOUR HOT DOG.
DON'T BE DISGUSTING.
BOO. I LOVE AGGRESSIVE WOMEN...
JEAN, NO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! PUT MY FACE-MASK DOWN!
IF I EXPOSE MY FACE EVEN FRACTIONALLY WITHOUT THE MASK'S RUBY BEGONIA SHIELD TO CONTAIN MY FACIAL-BLASTS, IT'S GOODBYE CHARLIE!
RELAX, SNOTT.
I'M TELEKINETICALLY KEEPING YOUR FACIAL BLASTS IN CHECK. I JUST THOUGHT I'D LIKE TO SEE YOUR FACE, BUT BLAGGH! I WAS WRONG. IT'S TERRIBLE--
--BUT YOU GOT ONE HELLUVA BODY, STUD! SO HUSH, MY LOVE. NO WORDS-JUST ACTION! THIS IS OUR MOMENT--AT LEAST TILL SOMEBODY PLAYS THROUGH! SO C'MON--GIMME ALL YOUR HOT MONKEY LOVE!
YAHOO! I GOT LUCKY!
BUT NOW I AM ALONE. YOU DID THIS, JASON--YOU FORCED ME TO HURT THE MEN I LOVE.
THAT WAS A MISTAKE. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'VE DONE--WHAT FORCES YOU'VE SET IN MOTION...
ZHOOM
...HUH? DO YA? HUH, YOU SCUM-SUCKING MAGGOT?!
12

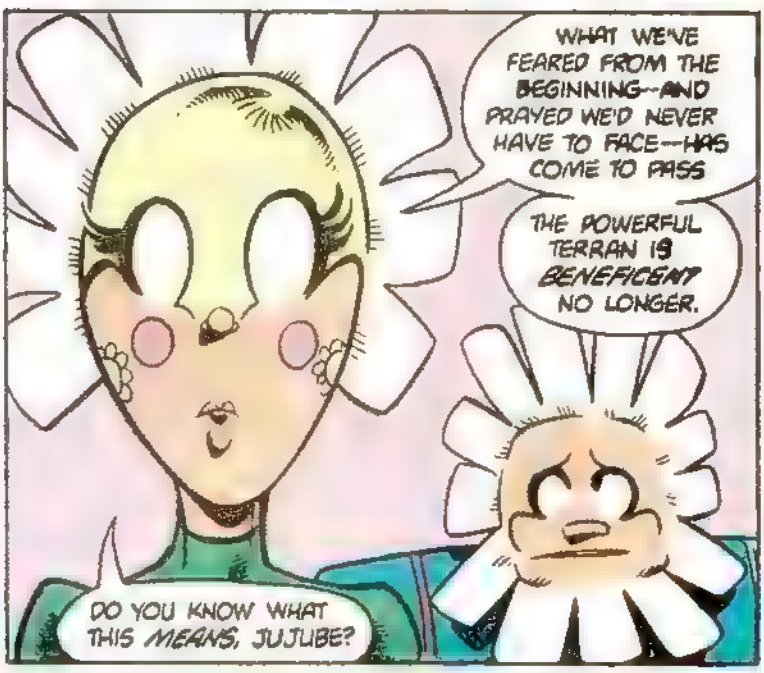
YOU TRIED TO CONTROL ME--BY EFFECTIVELY PUTTING MY FREE WILL TO SLEEP
INSTEAD, IT'S AS IF I'D AWAKENED FROM A DREAM.
WHAT DID W.I.M.P. PROMISE YOU, MASTERNOSE--POWER?
YOU WANT POWER? WELL, I'LL SHOW YOU POWER--POWER SUCH AS NO LIVING BEING HAS EVER DREAMED OF.
NO...NO, PLEASE...!
EXCEPT MAYBE ALEXANDER HAIG.
AT THE PRINCESS' TOUCH, HIS BRAIN SHRINKS...
...AND, IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, MASTERNOSE FINDS HIMSELF IN TOUCH WITH THE COLD STEEL BALL-BEARING HEART OF THE UNIVERSE--RICOCHETTING AMONG ALL THE INFINITE BUMPERS AND FLIPPERS OF SPACE AND TIME, REALITY AND FANTASY.
HIS BRAIN IS CRAMMED WITH THE MADDENING, CONTRADICTORY TRUTHS OF EXISTENCE:
BUMPETA-BUMPETA!
005
PING!
001
PING!
PING!
THWAK!
001
001
THE WAY IT ALWAYS RAINS RIGHT AFTER YOU WASH YOUR CAR. HOW YOU ALWAYS GET STUCK IN A LINE AT McDONALD'S BEHIND SOME FAT GUY WHO'S TRYING TO ORDER BURGERS FOR AN ENTIRE ARMORED DIVISION. THE WAY NOBODY KNOWS THE NAME OF THOSE LITTLE PLASTIC THINGS ON THE TIPS OF SHOELACES. AND THE FACT THAT ANDY ROONEY GETS PAID IN SIX FIGURES FOR TALKING ABOUT STUFF LIKE THIS ON NATIONAL TELEVISION.
SOME PEOPLE CAN HANDLE THIS EXPERIENCE.
SOME PEOPLE CAN'T.
HOMINA HOMINA HOMINA
TILT
TILT
IT'S KIND OF LIKE BEING TRAPPED IN AN ELEVATOR FOR 24 HOURS WITH WENDY O. WILLIAMS.
13

THUS, MASTERNOSE COLLAPSES AND IS FORGOTTEN, HIS BRAIN HAVING TAKEN ON THE CONSISTENCY OF NON-DAIRY WHIPPED TOPPING. SUDDENLY...
WHAT IN THE--
CRIPES!
BY THE PRE-MENSTRUAL STRESS SYNDROME!
ACH OU LEIBER AUGUSTINE!
CRIMINY, I'M SCARED!
OH, JEAN...JEAN...! I WISH I COULD HELP YOU. I KNOW YOU'RE HURTING BADLY... DEEP INSIDE... BUT FOR ALL MY POWER, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU--NOTHING! OH, WOE IS ME!
YOU SHOULD BE SCARED, YOU LITTLE SHOT-- FOR AGAINST ME YOU HAVE NO HOPE OF SURVIVAL!
HEAR ME, F-MEN! NO LONGER AM I THE PERSON YOU KNEW. I AM FIRE! I AM LIFE INCARNATE!
SSS, BOOM BA!
--I AM dark albatross!
♪--HEAR ME ROAR, IN NUMBERS TOO BIG TO IGNORE...♪
JEAN--NOVA-- WHATEVER YOU CALL YOURSELF! I CAN'T LET YOU DO THIS!
YOU DARE NOT DEFY DARK ALBATROSS, ALEC TRONN!
SHE BLASTED THE UH-OH ROOM RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER US! GEE, I'M SCARED! WILL I FALL TO MY DEATH, OR BE SAVED IN THE NICK OF TIME?
IF I FALL TO MY DEATH, WILL IT HURT? WILL I LOOK LIKE A PIZZA WITH EYES? WON'T I EVER FIND OUT WHAT SEX IS LIKE? OR GET BREASTS?
14

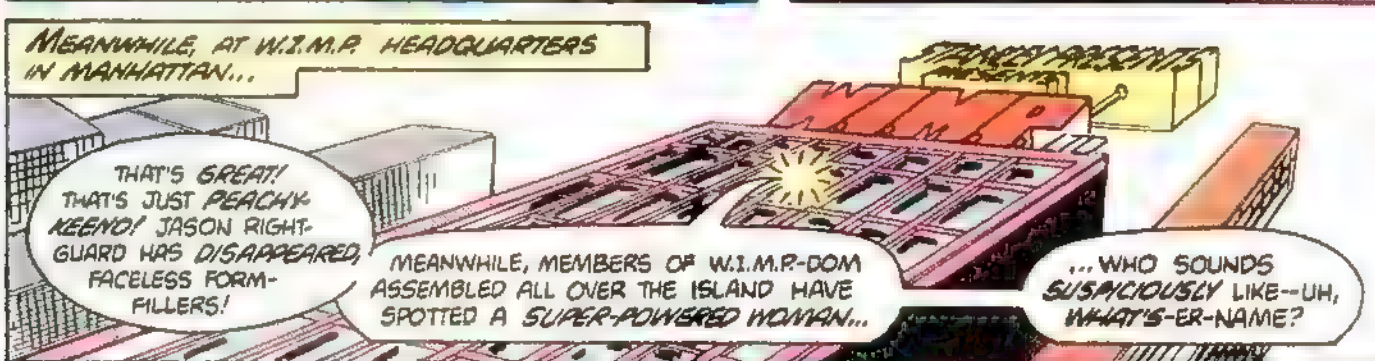
WHILE BELOW, ON A BALCONY ATTACHED TO WHAT'S LEFT OF THE MANSION...
JEAN! JEAN--BEING BLIND, I CAN'T SEE YOU--BUT I CAN TELL YOU'RE UP THERE, HEARING-WISE! YOU'RE PLAYING OUT THE SCENE JUST LIKE IN THE COMIC BOOK...
...BUT PLEASE--DON'T DO IT! MAYBE YOU'RE MAD AT ME FOR CREATING YOU! OKAY, I CAN RELATE TO THAT--
--JUST LET ME MAKE IT UP TO YOU--PLEASE! TELL ME WHAT I CAN GIVE YOU! YOU NAME IT, IT'S YOURS!
PLEASE, JEAN--LET ME MAKE YOUR BASIC RESTITUTION!
WHOK!
TELL ME--WHAT CAN I DO? WHAT CAN I SAY? WHAT CAN I CUT OFF?
WHAT CAN I--=mrph=
SORRY, BUB.
WHOMP
MOLSON
MEANWHILE--BELOW--WHERE E-MAN HAS FORMED HIMSELF INTO A "TRAMPOLINE" TO BREAK THE F-MEN'S FALL...
NOW! THESE F-MEN ARE JUST A BUNCH OF INNOCENT KIDS!
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO HARM THEM!
STAND BETWEEN THEM AND DARK ALBATROSS, TRONN...
...AND DARK ALBATROSS WILL CLOBBER YOU--
--SO THAT SHE CAN GET AT THE F-MEN!
THE F-MEN ARE THE ONLY BEINGS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO STOP HER, AND SHE MUST ELIMINATE THEM--
--EVEN IF IT MEANS YOU MUST BE DESTROYED AS WELL!
WITH THAT, THE DARK ALBATROSS'S HANDS GLOW WITH AN ALMOST GODLIKE TELEKINETIC POWER--
--AND SHE HITS THE FIGURES BELOW IN A HUNDRED DIFFERENT WAYS AT ONCE!
15

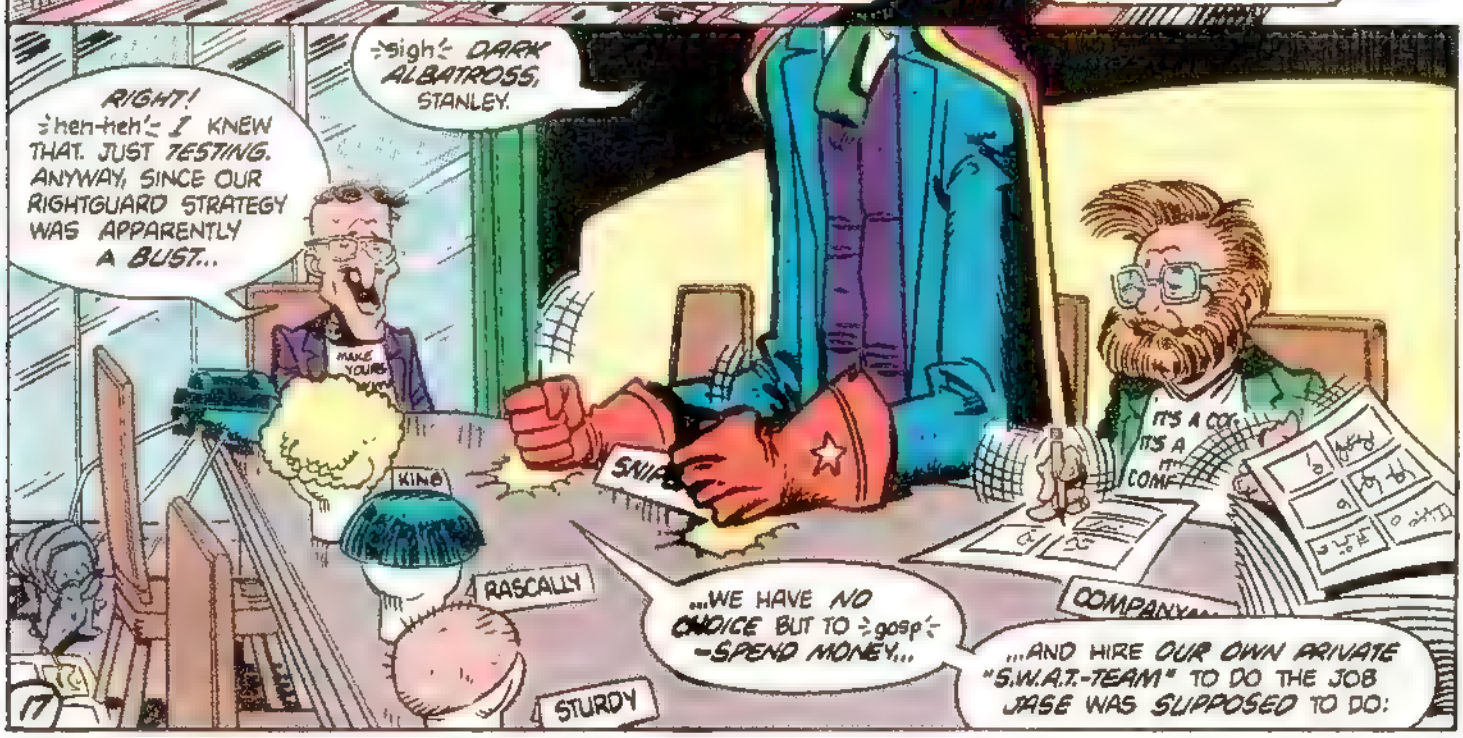

AND--HAVING STUNNED THEM INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS--DEPARTS!
I NEED MORE ENERGY ON WHICH TO FEED. IT'S TIME I LEFT THIS PLANET. MY DESTINY--AND MY DINNER--LAY IN THE STARS!
TRANSITION AND REPELLING E-MAN TOOK MORE OUT OF ME THAN I ANTICIPATED.
DARK ALBATROSS BIDS FAREWELL TO HER HOMEWORLD. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SHE SOARS SPACEWARD ON HER SELFISH MISSION WITH MONOMANIACAL INTENSITY:
SHE LEAVES WITHOUT HER AMERICAN EXPRESS CARD.
MONTHS AGO--A LIFETIME AGO--SHE HAD A VISION. SHE SAW HERSELF AS HAILE SELASSIE--
--SPIRITUAL ICON OF RASTAFARIANS EVERYWHERE, SYMBOL OF MEANINGLESS MUMBO-JUMBO, REPRESENTING ALL THAT IS GREAT IN US ALL.
YES, US--YOU, ME, EVEN HARRY NEXT DOOR, WHO LETS HIS PEKINESE MESS ON YOUR AZALEAS. BUT NOW THE DREAM HAS BEEN PERVERTED AND JEAN/NOVA/WHATSER-NAME JUST DOESN'T GIVE A WHIZ ANYMORE!
...ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STAR-GATE SHE HAS CREATED.
ALL SHE CARES ABOUT IS THIS SUN HERE IN ANOTHER GALAXY...
WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT, SHE CIRCLES THIS G-SEQUENCE, PRIMARY CLASS, 4B REGULAR, TYPE G-NEGATIVE STAR.
WIDTH: A ZILLION MILES; SURFACE TEMPERATURE: ONE MILLION C; CORE TEMPERATURE OVER 10^{10} TIMES THAT. AND STANDARD AND POOR'S JUST REMOVED IT FROM THEIR CREDIT WATCH LIST.
BUT IN REALITY, THEIR SOLVENCY WILL BE SHORT-LIVED--AS MUCH OF THEIR SUN'S ENERGY IS DRAINED OFF BY DARK ALBATROSS.
NORMALLY, THE TEN PLANETS ORBITING IT COULD EXPECT FOURTH-QUARTER PROFITS OF 100 MILLION ON REVENUES OF 60 BILLION--
THE PLANETARY INHABITANTS ARE CONFUSED. FRIGHTENED.
--THANKS TO THE INDUSTRIOUS COMPUTER-PROGRAMMING OF THEIR ANCIENT, PEACE-LOVING WATER-CHESTNUT PEOPLE.
THEIR COMPUTERS GO DOWN.
WITNESS NOW, A POSSIBLE IMPEDIMENT TO DARK ALBATROSS'S DAEMONIC* QUEST:
A SHI'HEDO IMPERIAL BATTLE CRUISER ON ITS MAIDEN VOYAGE.
HOLY $?!\%!$ WHAT WAS THAT?
* A.K.A. "DEMONIC" TO THOSE NOT SUFFERING FROM ANGLOPHILIAC PRETENSIONS--MIKE.
16


INSIDE THE STAR-CRUISER MONITOR-ROOM...
THE INHABITANTS OF THE A'TARI SYSTEM WERE AMONG THE MOST HIGH-YIELD IN IMPERIAL SPACE!
DOMINATRIX LILILURA, DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE BIRD IMAGE?
YES, JUJUBE--IT IS THE ALBATROSS EFFECT.

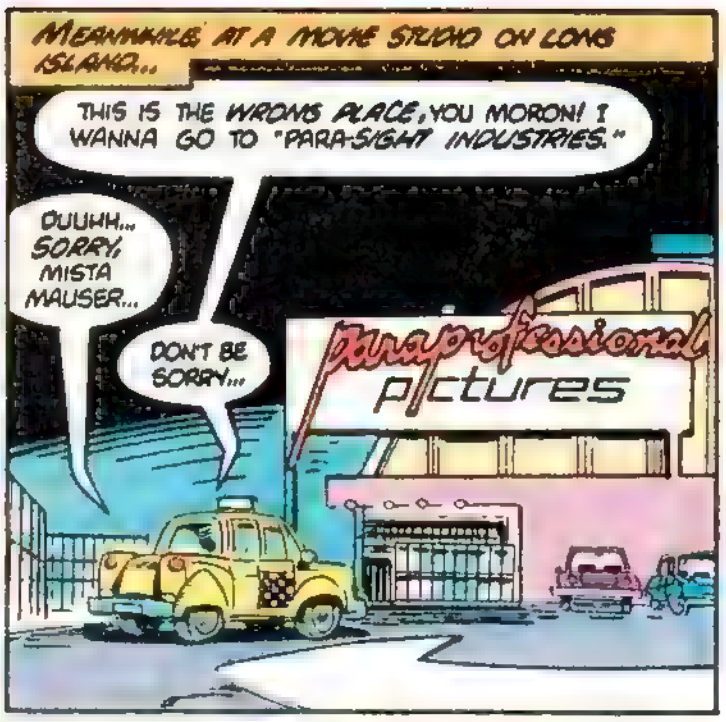

WHAT WE'VE FEARED FROM THE BEGINNING--AND PRAYED WE'D NEVER HAVE TO FACE--HAS COME TO PASS
THE POWERFUL TERRAN IS BENEFICENT NO LONGER.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, JUJUBE?

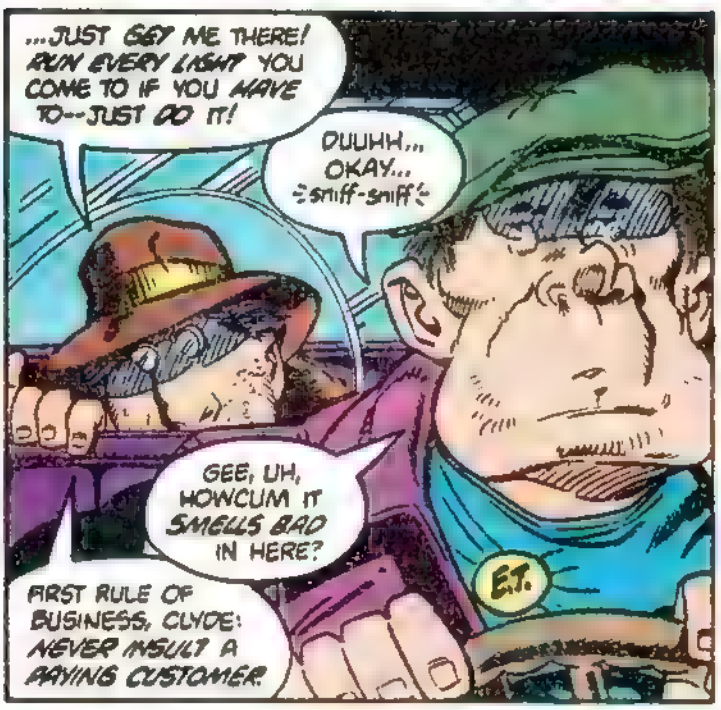
YES, DOMINATRIX.
WE MUST GO TO EARTH--AND OFF THE STUPID WITCH.

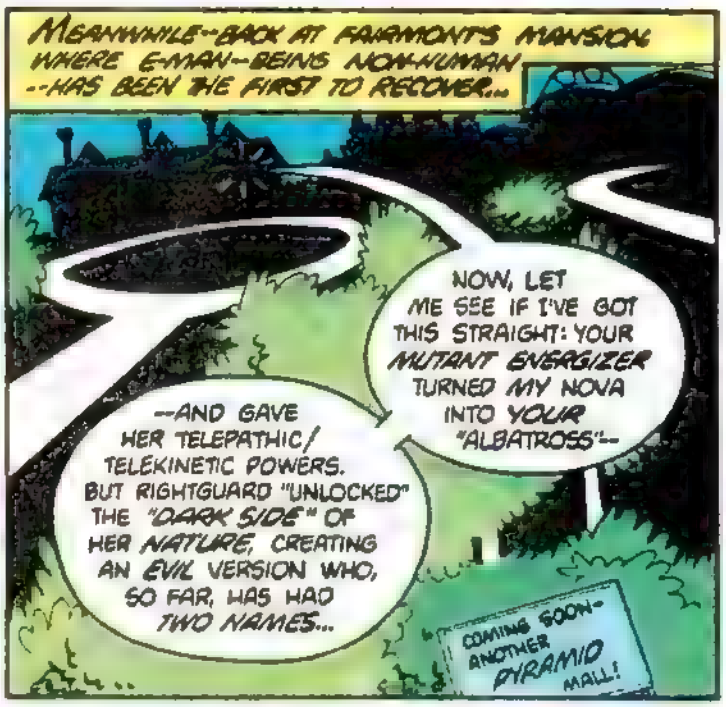

MEANWHILE, AT W.I.M.P. HEADQUARTERS IN MANHATTAN...
W.I.M.P.
THAT'S GREAT! THAT'S JUST PEACHY-KEENO! JASON RIGHTGUARD HAS DISAPPEARED, FACELESS FORM-FILLERS!
MEANWHILE, MEMBERS OF W.I.M.P-DOM ASSEMBLED ALL OVER THE ISLAND HAVE SPOTTED A SUPER-POWERED WOMAN...
...WHO SOUNDS SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE--UH, WHAT'S-ER-NAME?

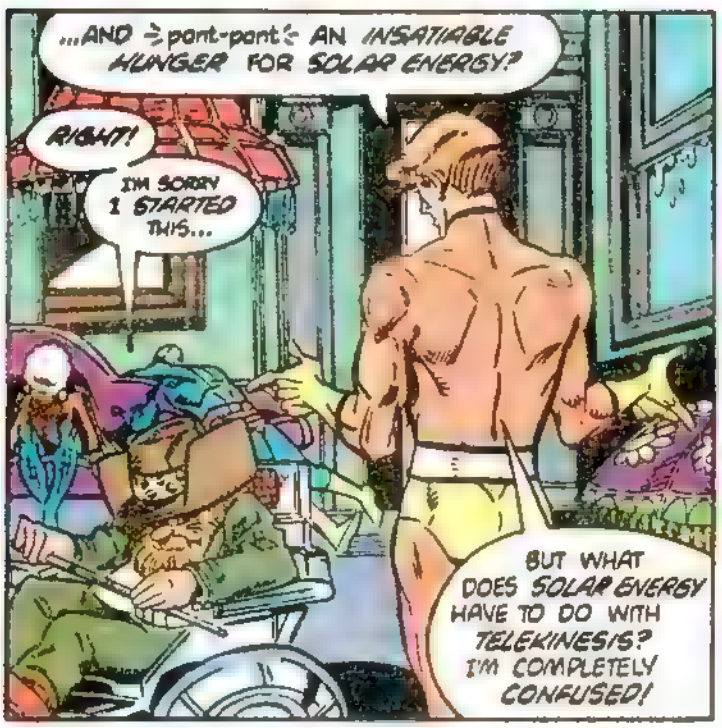

RIGHT! :heh-heh': I KNEW THAT. JUST TESTING. ANYWAY, SINCE OUR RIGHTGUARD STRATEGY WAS APPARENTLY A BUST...
:sigh': DARK ALBATROSS, STANLEY.
MAKE YOURS
KING
RASCALLY
STURDY
SNIP
IT'S A CO
IT'S A
IT COMP
COMPANY...
...WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO :gasp': --SPEND MONEY...
...AND HIRE OUR OWN PRIVATE "S.W.A.T.-TEAM" TO DO THE JOB JASE WAS SUPPOSED TO DO:

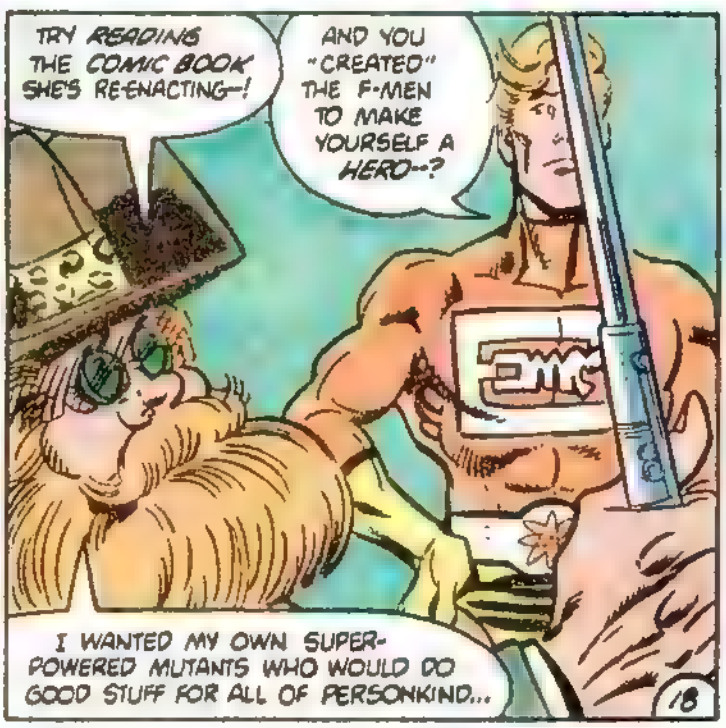
BRAINWASH 'EM INTO ABANDONING THEIR SUPER-HERO IDENTITIES... AND WORKING FOR US!
I'LL HAVE TO CALL MY WIFE AND TELL HER I'LL BE LATE FOR DINNER...
UH... MR. PRESENTS? YOU'RE NOT MARRIED.
UH... RIGHT, SURE. :heh-heh: I KNEW THAT. JUST TESTING...
SNIPER
COMIC


MEANWHILE, AT A MOVIE STUDIO ON LONG ISLAND...
THIS IS THE WRONG PLACE, YOU MORON! I WANNA GO TO "PARA-SIGHT INDUSTRIES."
DUUHH... SORRY, MISTA MAUSER...
DON'T BE SORRY...
parasight pictures

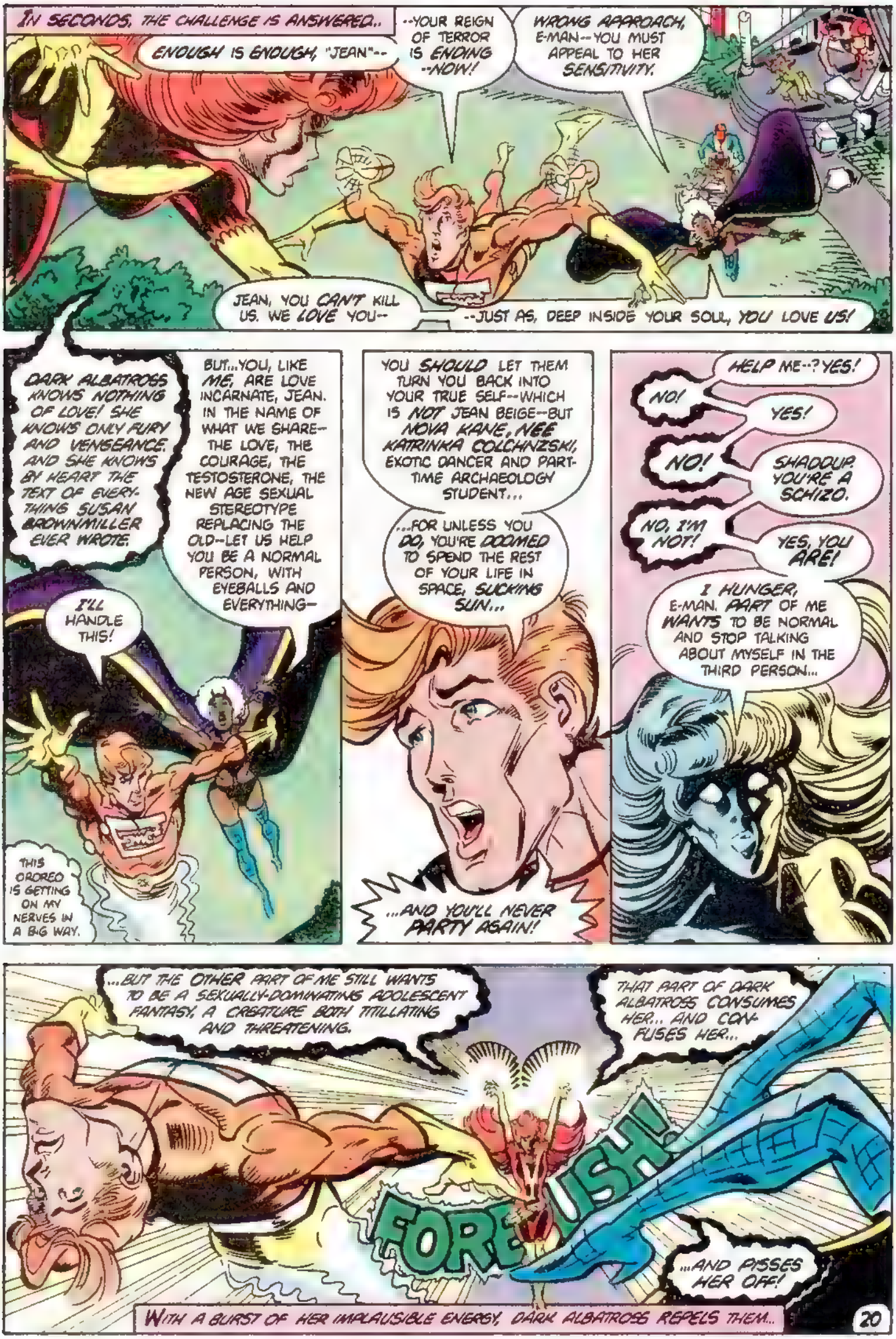

...JUST GET ME THERE! RUN EVERY LIGHT YOU COME TO IF YOU HAVE TO--JUST DO IT!
DUUHH... OKAY... :sniff-sniff:
GEE, UH, HOWCUM IT SMELLS BAD IN HERE?
E.T.
FIRST RULE OF BUSINESS, CLYDE: NEVER INSULT A PAYING CUSTOMER.


MEANWHILE--BACK AT FAIRMONT'S MANSION WHERE E-MAN--BEING NON-HUMAN --HAS BEEN THE FIRST TO RECOVER...
NOW, LET ME SEE IF I'VE GOT THIS STRAIGHT: YOUR MUTANT ENERGIZER TURNED MY NOVA INTO YOUR "ALBATROSS"--
--AND GAVE HER TELEPATHIC/ TELEKINETIC POWERS. BUT RIGHTGUARD "UNLOCKED" THE "DARK SIDE" OF HER NATURE, CREATING AN EVIL VERSION WHO, SO FAR, HAS HAD TWO NAMES...
COMING SOON- ANOTHER PYRAMID MALL!

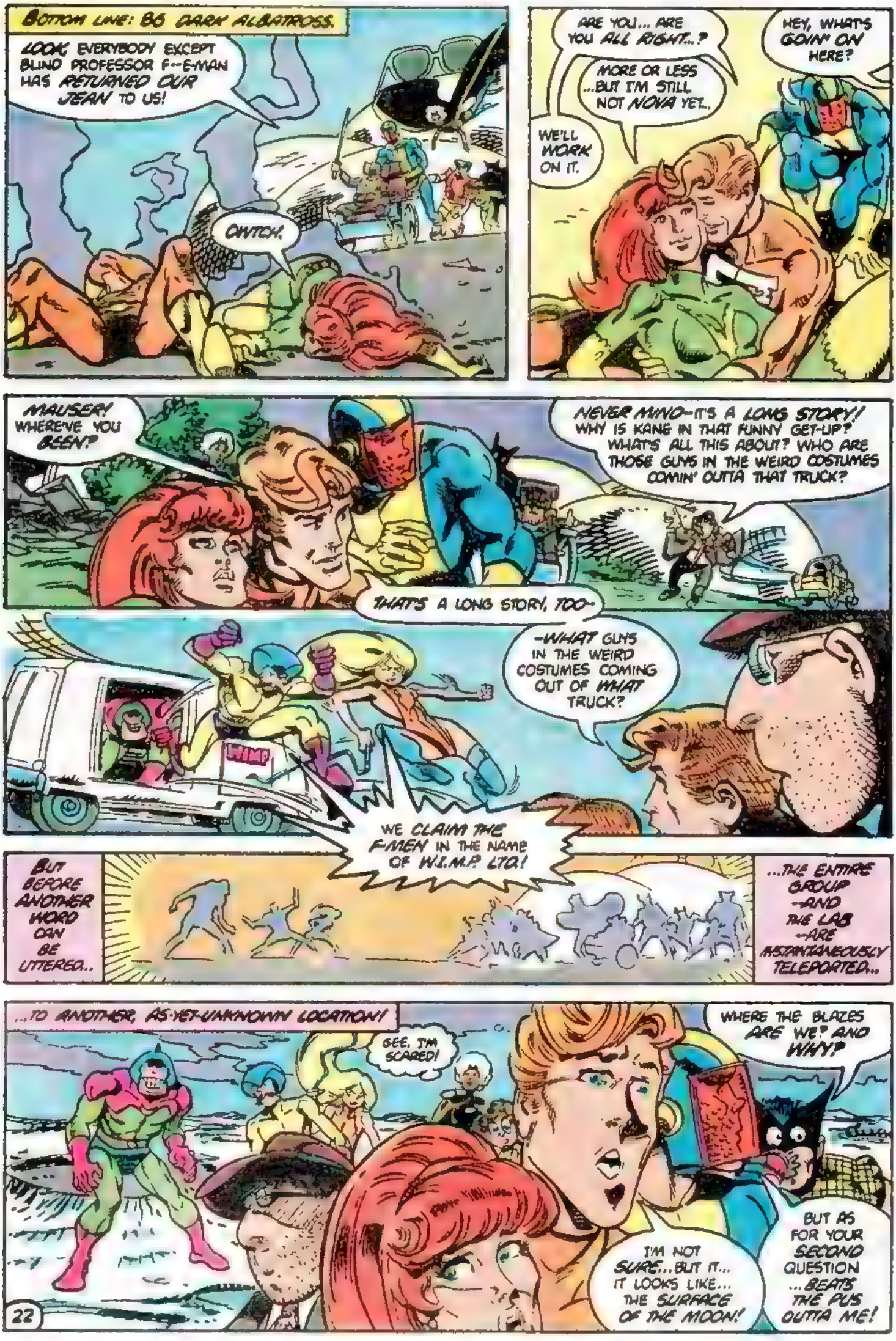

...AND :pant-pant: AN INSATIABLE HUNGER FOR SOLAR ENERGY?
RIGHT!
I'M SORRY I STARTED THIS...
BUT WHAT DOES SOLAR ENERGY HAVE TO DO WITH TELEKINESIS? I'M COMPLETELY CONFUSED!

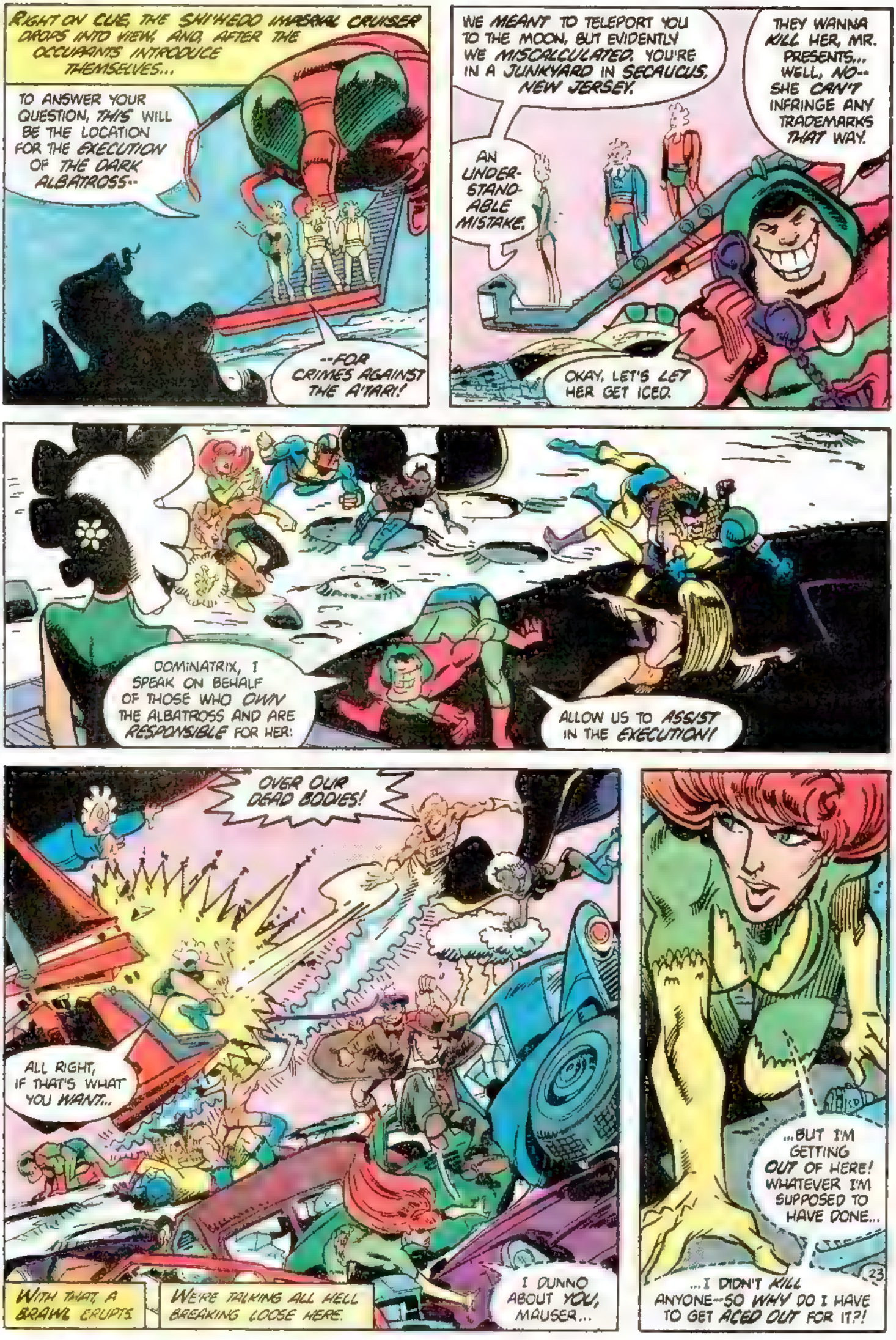

TRY READING THE COMIC BOOK SHE'S RE-ENACTING--!
AND YOU "CREATED" THE F-MEN TO MAKE YOURSELF A HERO--?
I WANTED MY OWN SUPER-POWERED MUTANTS WHO WOULD DO GOOD STUFF FOR ALL OF PERSONKIND...

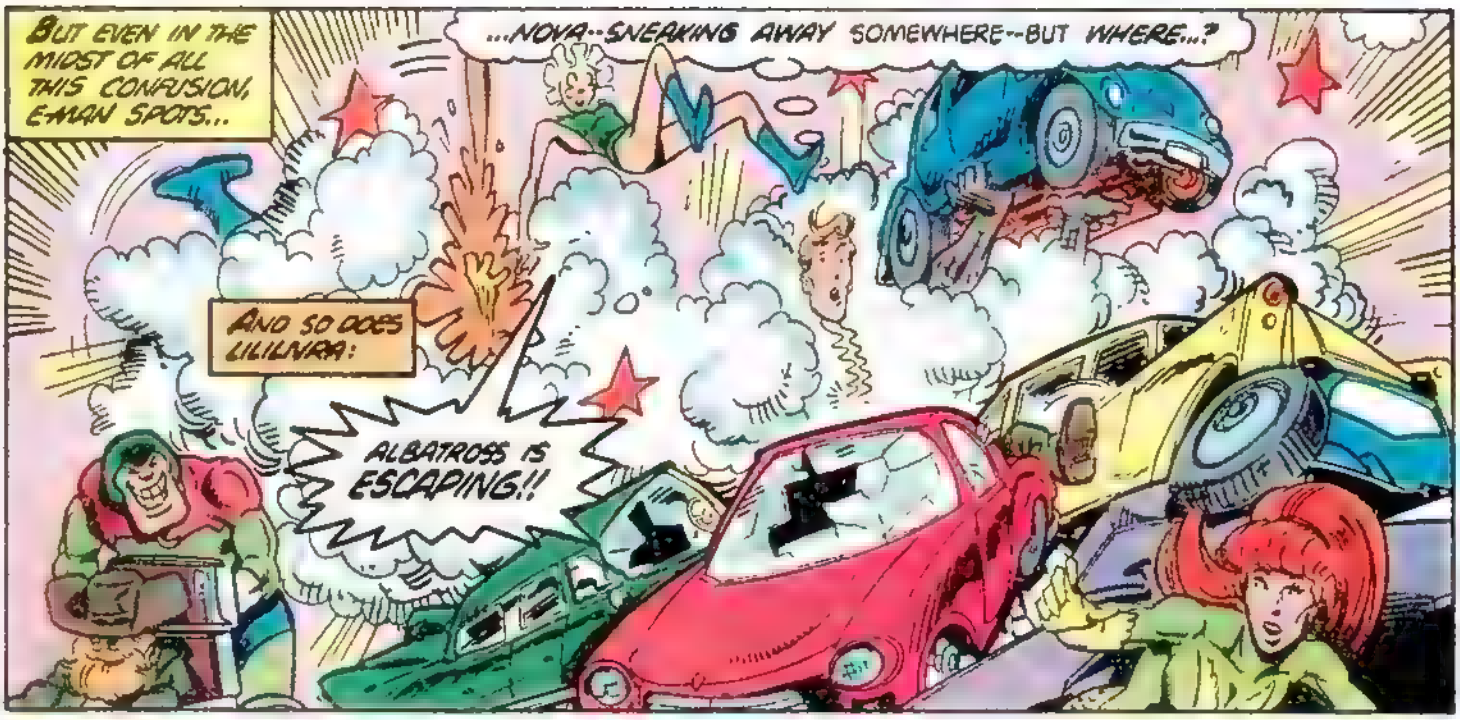
...SO I COULD BECOME A NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING SELFLESS HUMANITARIAN, WHO IS LOVED BY EVERYBODY AND HIS AND/OR HER BROTHER AND/OR SISTER.
ADMIRABLE... I GUESS, BUT KIDNAPPING IS STILL KIDNAPPING, AND NEITHER THOSE KIDS NOR NOVA GAVE YOU THEIR PERMIS--
PROFESSOR X!
I CAN SENSE DARK ALBATROSS, THANKS TO THE "PSIONIC-RAPPORT" WE SHARE!
SY WHO?
NEVER MIND THAT!
SHE'S RETURNING TO EARTH AND SHE'S OUT TO DESTROY US!
AND, AS IF OUR HERO DOESN'T HAVE TROUBLE ENOUGH...
TRUE DECEIVED ONES, OUR "S.W.A.T.-TEAM" COMPRISES VOLUNTEERS FROM OUR CRACK LEGAL DEPARTMENT.
HYUK HYUK HYUK
SPECIFICALLY, THIS-- HIS SUPER-HERO-TRANSFORMING NASAL-SPRAY! OBSERVE--I JUST SQUEEZE THIS BABY...
FOOF! FOOF!
MAKE OURS A
MASTERNOSE MAY HAVE--AH-- ABANDONED US, BUT FORTUNATELY, HE LEFT BEHIND ONE OF HIS GIMMICKS!
AND VOILA-- THE REVENGERS: MINDQUAKE, HUSSY, AND HAMASI, MASTER OF KOO YOO... WHO WILL MAKE THE F-MEN OURS AGAIN!
WHILE AT THAT MOMENT...
I HAVE RETURNED, F-MEN-- THIS TIME MORE POWERFUL... AND TO SEE OUR BATTLE THROUGH TO THE END--
YOUR END!
19


IN SECONDS, THE CHALLENGE IS ANSWERED..
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, "JEAN"--
--YOUR REIGN OF TERROR IS ENDING --NOW!
WRONG APPROACH, E-MAN--YOU MUST APPEAL TO HER SENSITIVITY.
JEAN, YOU CAN'T KILL US. WE LOVE YOU--
--JUST AS, DEEP INSIDE YOUR SOUL, YOU LOVE US!
DARK ALBATROSS KNOWS NOTHING OF LOVE! SHE KNOWS ONLY FURY AND VENGEANCE. AND SHE KNOWS BY HEART THE TEXT OF EVERYTHING SUSAN BROWNMILLER EVER WROTE.
BUT...YOU, LIKE ME, ARE LOVE INCARNATE, JEAN. IN THE NAME OF WHAT WE SHARE--THE LOVE, THE COURAGE, THE TESTOSTERONE, THE NEW AGE SEXUAL STEREOTYPE REPLACING THE OLD--LET US HELP YOU BE A NORMAL PERSON, WITH EYEBALLS AND EVERYTHING--
I'LL HANDLE THIS!
THIS ORDEAL IS GETTING ON MY NERVES IN A BIG WAY.
YOU SHOULD LET THEM TURN YOU BACK INTO YOUR TRUE SELF--WHICH IS NOT JEAN BEIGE--BUT NOVA KANE, NEE KATRINKA COLCHINZSKI, EXOTIC DANCER AND PART-TIME ARCHAEOLOGY STUDENT...
...FOR UNLESS YOU DO, YOU'RE DOOMED TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE IN SPACE, SUCKING SUN...
...AND YOU'LL NEVER PARTY AGAIN!
HELP ME--? YES!
NO!
YES!
NO!
SHADDUP. YOU'RE A SCHIZO.
NO, I'M NOT!
YES, YOU ARE!
I HUNGER, E-MAN. PART OF ME WANTS TO BE NORMAL AND STOP TALKING ABOUT MYSELF IN THE THIRD PERSON...
...BUT THE OTHER PART OF ME STILL WANTS TO BE A SEXUALLY-DOMINATING ADOLESCENT FANTASY, A CREATURE BOTH TITILLATING AND THREATENING.
THAT PART OF DARK ALBATROSS CONSUMES HER... AND CONFUSES HER...
FORE USH!
...AND PISSES HER OFF!
WITH A BURST OF HER IMPLAUSIBLE ENERGY, DARK ALBATROSS REPELS THEM...
20

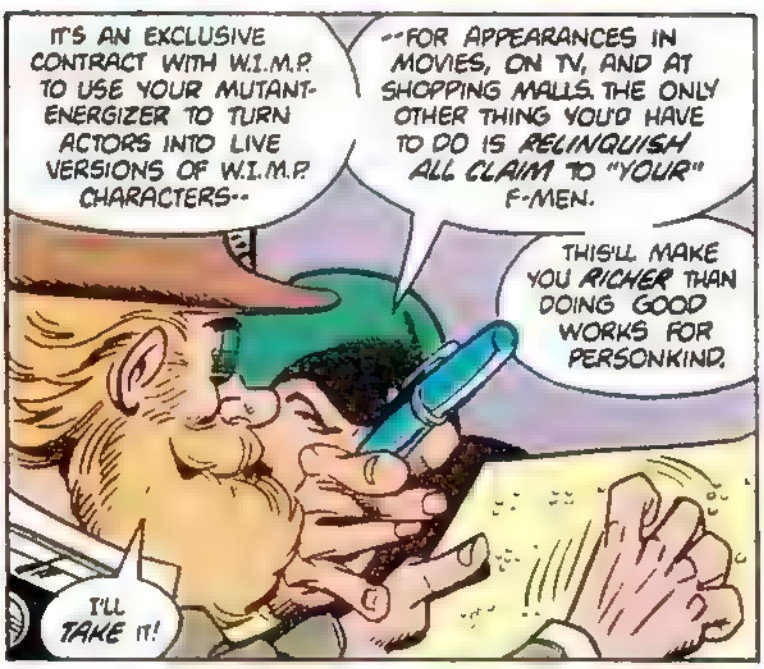
.. AND SEVERAL GOOD PERSONS AND TRUE FALL.
CRIMINY! MY BELOVED PETEY HAS BEEN HURT!
KRAMM
PETEY! SPEAK TO ME! TELL ME YOU AREN'T DEAD! TELL ME YOU'LL STILL BE AROUND TO STIR UP MY HORMONES, TO KISS ME AND FEEL GUILTY ABOUT IT, TO PATRONIZE ME EVEN THOUGH YOU FEEL A DISTURBING PRIMAL LUST FOR MY BLOSSOMING ADOLESCENT WOMANHOOD!
DON'T KATYA. THIS ISN'T... pant, pant, pant... RIGHT!
YAAAY!
I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING THIS MONSTER--SO I'VE GOT TO STOP IT. WHAT I'VE CREATED IS TERRIBLE--POWER WITHOUT RESTRAINT, KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT WISDOM, CREATION WITHOUT ROYALTIES--
YOU CAN'T TALK HER INTO SUBMISSION, FAIRMONT...
...YOU'VE GOT TO ACT!
NOT LONG AGO--YET FOR KATRINKA/NOVA/JEAN/PRINCESS/ALBATROSS, A LIFETIME (AND SEVERAL NAME-CHANGES) AGO--
--ALBATROSS "BOUND A ROGUE NEUTRON-GALAXY WITHIN A STASIS-FIELD OF LIVING ANTI-ENERGY, THEREBY PREVENTING THAT ULTIMATE BLACK HOLE FROM DESTROYING THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE..."
...AND MAKING SEVERAL DEAD PHYSICISTS AND SCIENCE FICTION WRITERS TURN SOMERSAULTS IN THEIR GRAVES.
NOW IN THE SAME WAY, E-MAN-GENERATING ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY SIMILAR TO THAT IN THE HUMAN BRAIN--BINDS DARK ALBATROSS "WITHIN AN UNBREAKABLE NETWORK OF PSIONIC CIRCUIT BREAKERS" (WHATEVER THE HELL THAT IS).

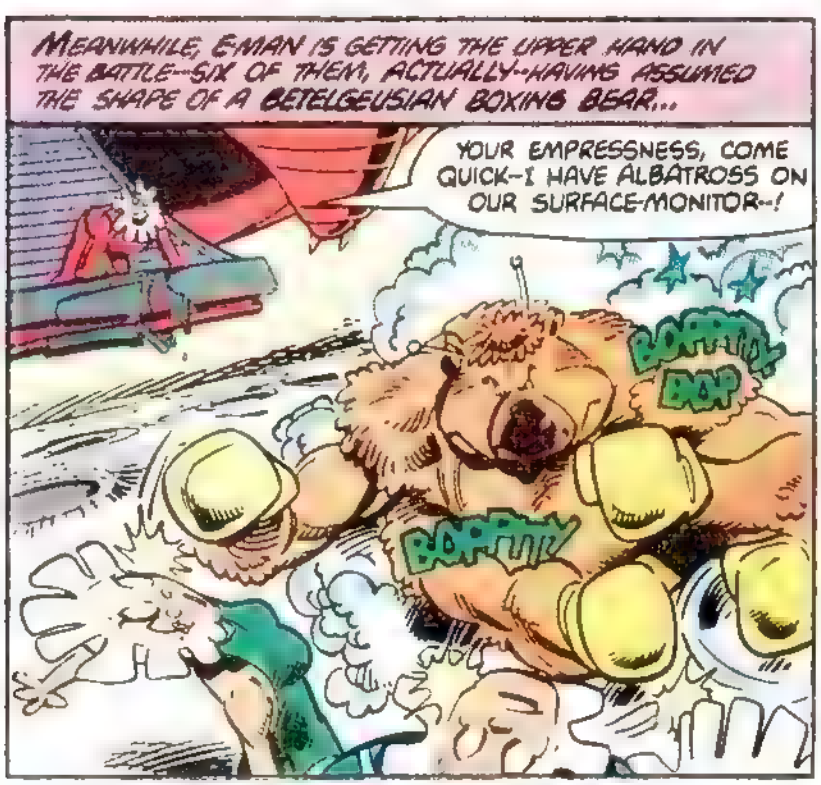

BOTTOM LINE: BG DARK ALBATROSS.
LOOK, EVERYBODY EXCEPT BLIND PROFESSOR F--E-MAN HAS RETURNED OUR JEAN TO US!
OWTCH.
ARE YOU... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?
MORE OR LESS ...BUT I'M STILL NOT NOVA YET..
WE'LL WORK ON IT.
HEY, WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?
MAUSER! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?
NEVER MIND--IT'S A LONG STORY! WHY IS KANE IN THAT FUNNY GET-UP? WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT? WHO ARE THOSE GUYS IN THE WEIRD COSTUMES COMIN' OUTTA THAT TRUCK?
THAT'S A LONG STORY, TOO--
-WHAT GUYS IN THE WEIRD COSTUMES COMING OUT OF WHAT TRUCK?
WIMP
WE CLAIM THE F-MEN IN THE NAME OF W.I.M.P. LTD.!
BUT BEFORE ANOTHER WORD CAN BE UTTERED..
...THE ENTIRE GROUP --AND THE LAB --ARE INSTANTANEOUSLY TELEPORTED..
...TO ANOTHER, AS-YET-UNKNOWN LOCATION!
SEE, I'M SCARED!
WHERE THE BLAZES ARE WE? AND WHY?
I'M NOT SURE...BUT IT... IT LOOKS LIKE... THE SURFACE OF THE MOON!
BUT AS FOR YOUR SECOND QUESTION ...BEATS THE PUS OUTTA ME!

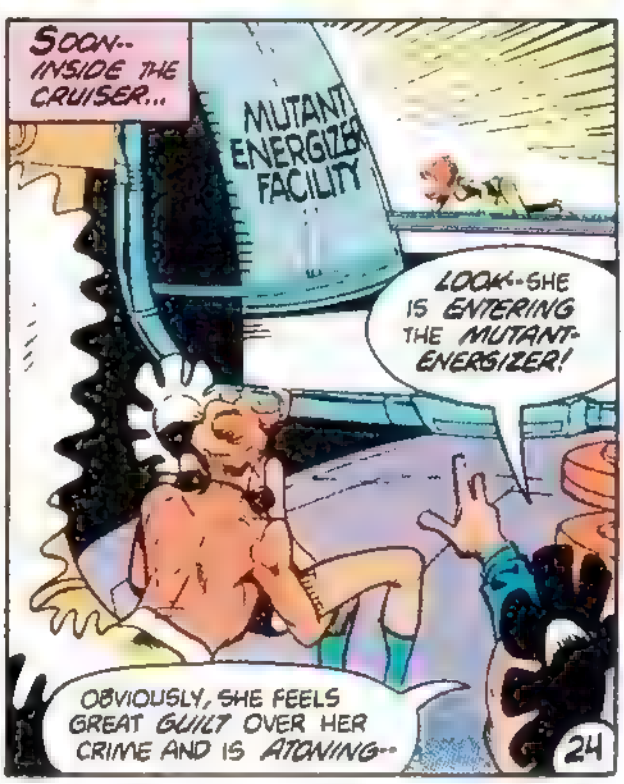

RIGHT ON CUE, THE SHI'HEDD IMPERIAL CRUISER DROPS INTO VIEW, AND, AFTER THE OCCUPANTS INTRODUCE THEMSELVES...
TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, THIS WILL BE THE LOCATION FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE DARK ALBATROSS--
--FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE A'TARI!
WE MEANT TO TELEPORT YOU TO THE MOON, BUT EVIDENTLY WE MISCALCULATED. YOU'RE IN A JUNKYARD IN SECAUCUS, NEW JERSEY.
AN UNDER-STAND-ABLE MISTAKE.
THEY WANNA KILL HER, MR. PRESENTS... WELL, NO-- SHE CAN'T INFRINGE ANY TRADEMARKS THAT WAY.
OKAY, LET'S LET HER GET ICED.
DOMINATRIX, I SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THOSE WHO OWN THE ALBATROSS AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HER:
ALLOW US TO ASSIST IN THE EXECUTION!
OVER OUR DEAD BODIES!
ALL RIGHT, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT...
WITH THAT, A BRAWL ERUPTS.
WE'RE TALKING ALL HELL BREAKING LOOSE HERE.
I DUNNO ABOUT YOU, MAUSER...
...BUT I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE! WHATEVER I'M SUPPOSED TO HAVE DONE...
...I DIDN'T KILL ANYONE--SO WHY DO I HAVE TO GET ACED OUT FOR IT?!
23

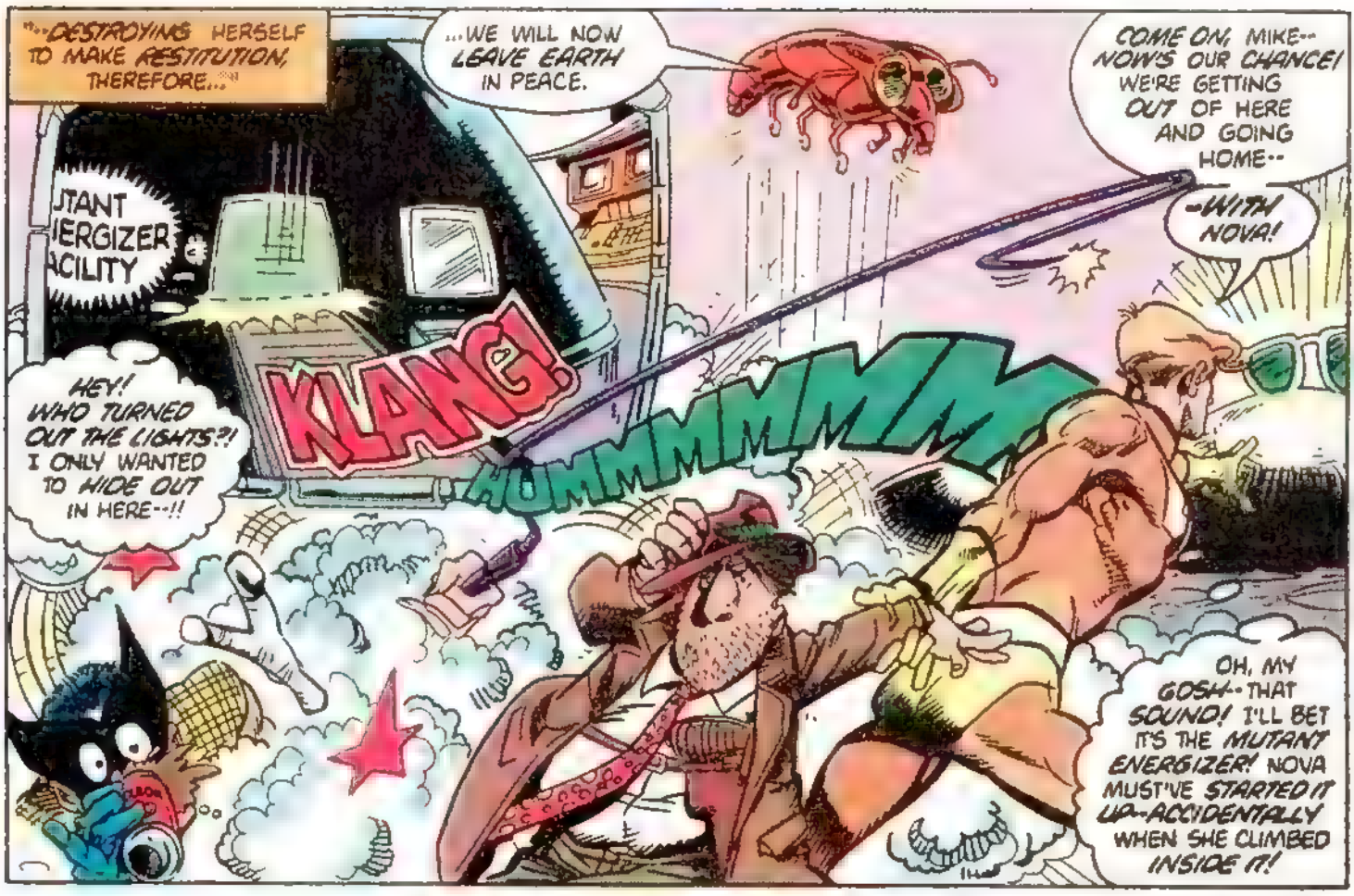

BUT EVEN IN THE MIDST OF ALL THIS CONFUSION, E-MAN SPOTS..
...NOVA--SNEAKING AWAY SOMEWHERE--BUT WHERE...?
AND SO DOES LILILNRA:
ALBATROSS IS ESCAPING!!

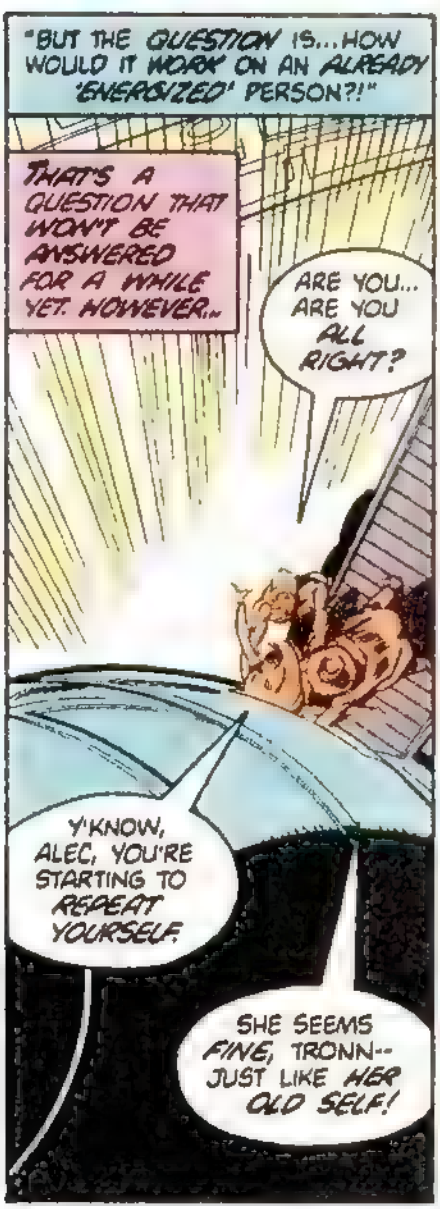
MEANWHILE...
JEAN'S CLEVER... RESOURCEFUL. THEY'LL NEVER TAKE HER.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. LOOK, THIS WHOLE CONFLICT BETWEEN YOU AND W.I.M.P. IS RIDICULOUS. LET'S MAKE A DEAL:
I AM EMPOWERED TO OFFER YOU A "SETTLEMENT." IT'S ALREADY BEEN DRAWN UP--IN BRAILLE, FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE:

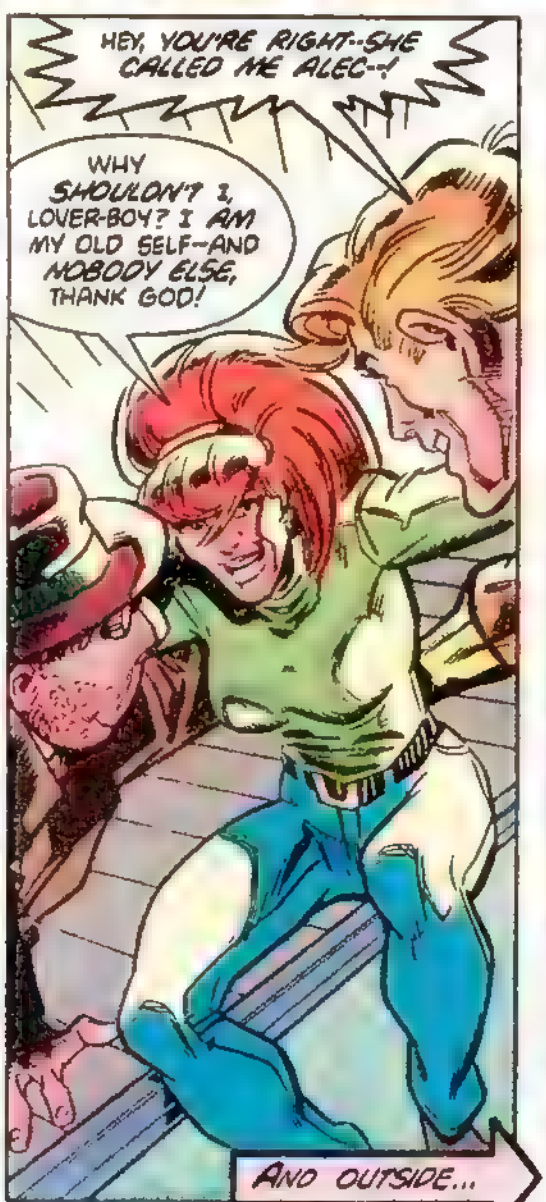

IT'S AN EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT WITH W.I.M.P. TO USE YOUR MUTANT-ENERGIZER TO TURN ACTORS INTO LIVE VERSIONS OF W.I.M.P. CHARACTERS--
--FOR APPEARANCES IN MOVIES, ON TV, AND AT SHOPPING MALLS. THE ONLY OTHER THING YOU'D HAVE TO DO IS RELINQUISH ALL CLAIM TO "YOUR" F-MEN.
THIS'LL MAKE YOU RICHER THAN DOING GOOD WORKS FOR PERSONKIND.
I'LL TAKE IT!

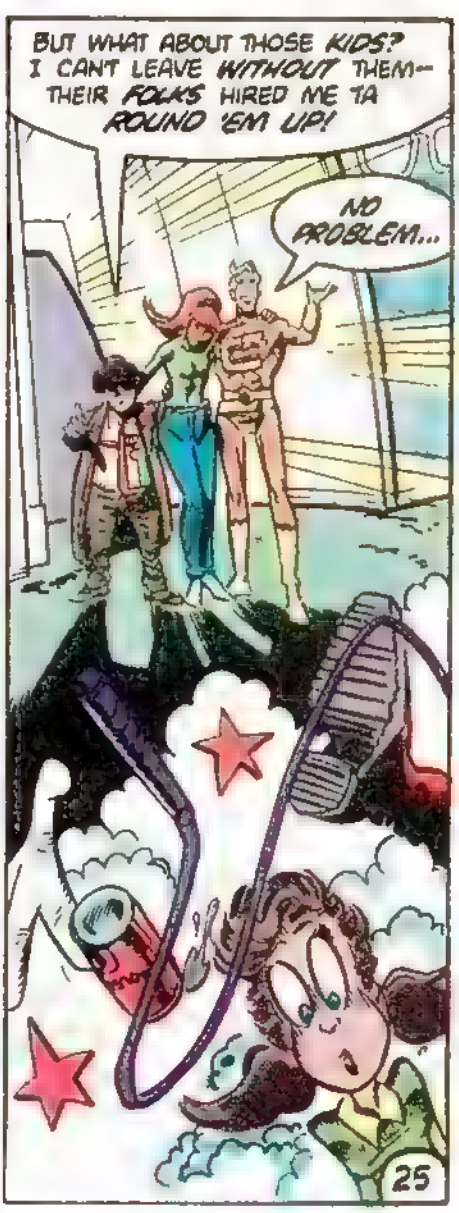

MEANWHILE, E-MAN IS GETTING THE UPPER HAND IN THE BATTLE--SIX OF THEM, ACTUALLY--HAVING ASSUMED THE SHAPE OF A BETELGEUSIAN BOXING BEAR...
YOUR EMPRESSNESS, COME QUICK--I HAVE ALBATROSS ON OUR SURFACE-MONITOR--!
BOPPITY BOP
BOPPITY


SOON-- INSIDE THE CRUISER...
MUTANT ENERGIZER FACILITY
LOOK--SHE IS ENTERING THE MUTANT-ENERGIZER!
OBVIOUSLY, SHE FEELS GREAT GUILT OVER HER CRIME AND IS ATONING--

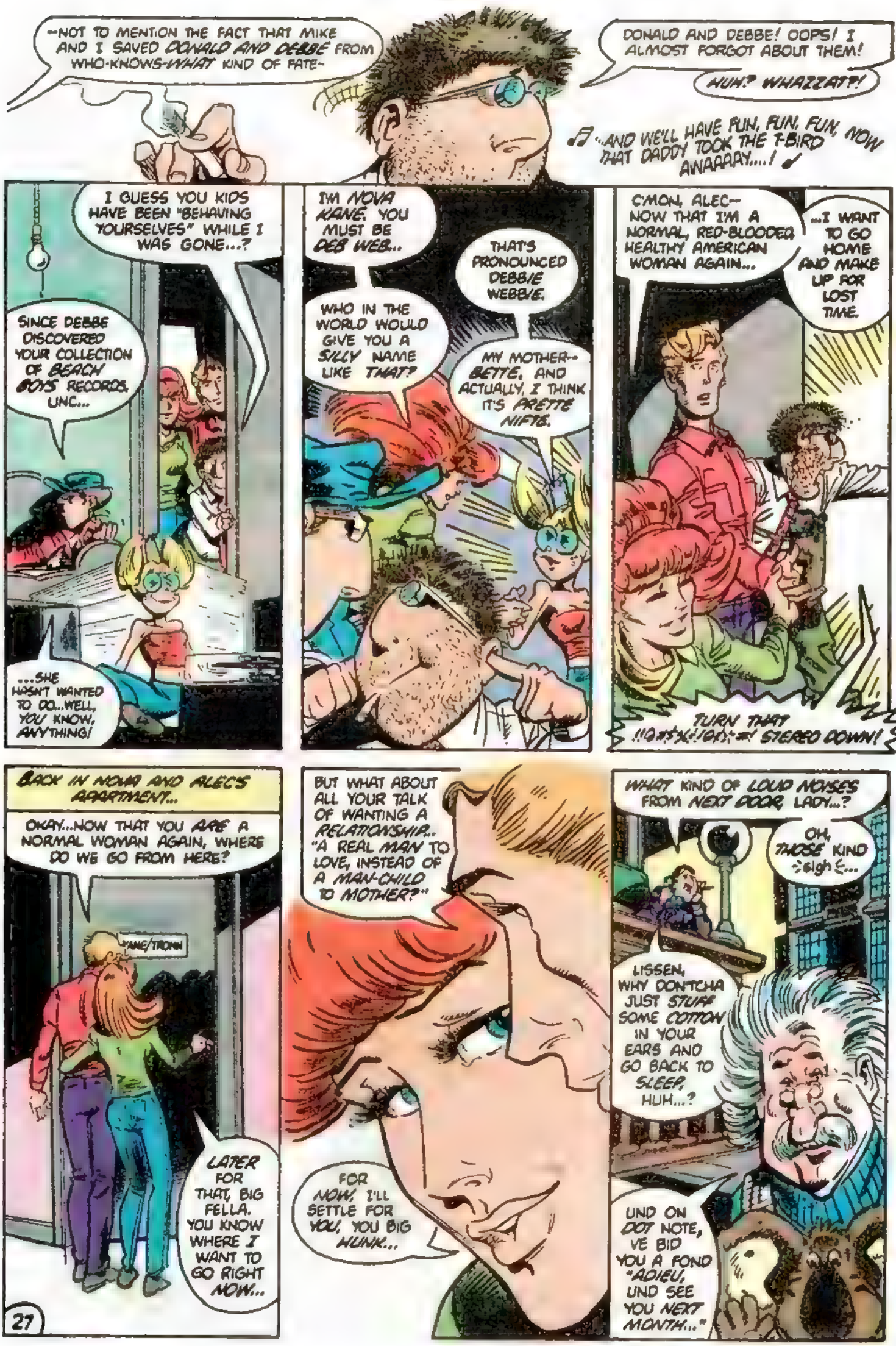

"...DESTROYING HERSELF TO MAKE RESTITUTION, THEREFORE..."
...WE WILL NOW LEAVE EARTH IN PEACE.
COME ON, MIKE--NOW'S OUR CHANCE! WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE AND GOING HOME--
-WITH NOVA!
JTANT IERGIZER ACILITY
KLANG!
HUMMMMMMM
HEY! WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS?! I ONLY WANTED TO HIDE OUT IN HERE--!!
OH, MY GOSH--THAT SOUND! I'LL BET IT'S THE MUTANT ENERGIZER! NOVA MUST'VE STARTED IT UP--ACCIDENTALLY WHEN SHE CLIMBED INSIDE IT!


"BUT THE QUESTION IS...HOW WOULD IT WORK ON AN ALREADY 'ENERGIZED' PERSON?!"
THAT'S A QUESTION THAT WON'T BE ANSWERED FOR A WHILE YET. HOWEVER...
ARE YOU... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
Y'KNOW, ALEC, YOU'RE STARTING TO REPEAT YOURSELF.
SHE SEEMS FINE, TRONN--JUST LIKE HER OLD SELF!


HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT--SHE CALLED ME ALEC--!
WHY SHOULDN'T I, LOVER-BOY? I AM MY OLD SELF--AND NOBODY ELSE, THANK GOD!
AND OUTSIDE...


BUT WHAT ABOUT THOSE KIDS? I CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT THEM--THEIR FOLKS HIRED ME TA ROUND 'EM UP!
NO PROBLEM...
25

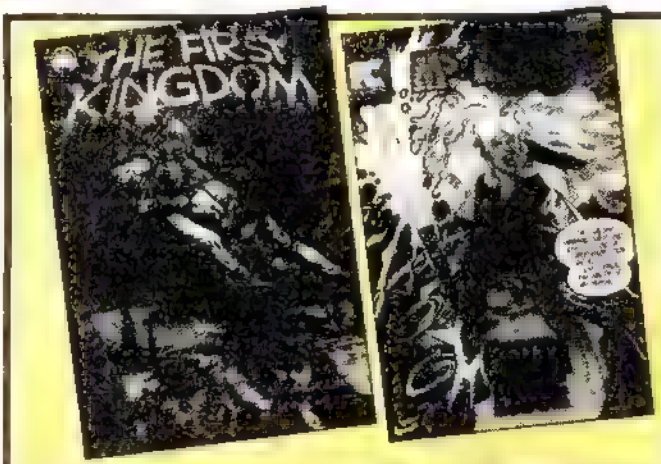
I THINK "THE F-MEN" HAVE GOTTEN CARRIED AWAY WITH THEMSELVES--THEY'RE FIGHTING EACH OTHER NOW.
AND SINCE FAIRMONT IS TOO BUSY NEGOTIATING HIS CONTRACT TO NOTICE US...
...NOW'S THE PERFECT TIME FOR A "KIDNAPPING." SO--
--ONE "F-MAN NET" COMING UP!
AND, WITHIN THE NEXT 15 MINUTES, E-MAN AND COMPANY HAVE RUN THE "F-MEN" THRU THE ENERGIZER--RETURNING THEM TO THEIR NORMAL SELVES--AND "BORROWED" THE W.I.M.P. TRUCK.
BACK TO MY OFFICE, TRONN--AN' STEP ON IT!
GEEZE, I HOPE WE BEAT THE RUSH-HOUR TRAFFIC...
AND IN A FEW HOURS, THE KIDS WHO HAD BEEN THE F-MEN ARE REUNITED WITH THEIR PARENTS:
YOU MEAN...YOU'RE NOT GONNA GET A DIVORCE AFTER ALL, MOM AND DAD?!
YAAY!!
I LOVE HAPPY ENDINGS, DON'T YOU GUYS?
ACTUALLY, I THINK I'M GONNA CHUCK MY LUNCH...
BUT THERE'S MORE TO THIS HAPPY ENDING, ISN'T THERE, NOVA?
THERE IS INDEED--AS NOVA EXPLAINS WHEN THEY'RE ALONE...
GUESS WHAT I FOUND OUT WHEN I TRIED TO HELP ALEC ROUND UP THE KIDS...?
NO MORE ENERGY-POWERS! I'VE GOTTEN MY WISH!
SO NOW EVERYTHING TRULY IS RIGHT WITH THE WORLD!
"THE ENERGIZER HAD THE UNEXPECTED EFFECT OF TURNING NOVA BACK INTO A NORMAL WOMAN...DAVE IS IN JAIL... AND THE POLICE ARE ON THEIR WAY TO ARREST FAIRMONT. HE PROBABLY HASN'T EVEN NOTICED THAT THE KIDS ARE GONE..."
IF WE GIVE YOU THE "MOST FAVORED NATIONS" CLAUSE, FAIRMONT...
...THEN YOU GOTTA GIVE UP THE ROLLING BREAK ON THE ROYALTY SCHEDULE...
26


--NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT MIKE AND I SAVED DONALD AND DEBBE FROM WHO-KNOWS-WHAT KIND OF FATE--
DONALD AND DEBBE! OOPS! I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THEM!
HUH? WHAZZAT?!
♫ ..AND WE'LL HAVE FUN, FUN, FUN, NOW THAT DADDY TOOK THE T-BIRD AWAAAAY....! ♪
I GUESS YOU KIDS HAVE BEEN "BEHAVING YOURSELVES" WHILE I WAS GONE...?
SINCE DEBBE DISCOVERED YOUR COLLECTION OF BEACH BOYS RECORDS, UNC...
...SHE HASN'T WANTED TO DO...WELL, YOU KNOW, ANYTHING!
I'M NOVA KANE. YOU MUST BE DEB WEB...
THAT'S PRONOUNCED DEBB/E WEBB/E.
WHO IN THE WORLD WOULD GIVE YOU A SILLY NAME LIKE THAT?
MY MOTHER-- BETTE. AND ACTUALLY, I THINK IT'S ARETTE NIFTE.
C'MON, ALEC-- NOW THAT I'M A NORMAL, RED-BLOODED HEALTHY AMERICAN WOMAN AGAIN...
...I WANT TO GO HOME AND MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME.
TURN THAT !!@#$%(!@&)*=! STEREO DOWN!
BACK IN NOVA AND ALEC'S APARTMENT...
OKAY...NOW THAT YOU ARE A NORMAL WOMAN AGAIN, WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
KANE/TROWN
LATER FOR THAT, BIG FELLA. YOU KNOW WHERE I WANT TO GO RIGHT NOW...
BUT WHAT ABOUT ALL YOUR TALK OF WANTING A RELATIONSHIP.. "A REAL MAN TO LOVE, INSTEAD OF A MAN-CHILD TO MOTHER?"
FOR NOW, I'LL SETTLE FOR YOU, YOU BIG HUNK...
WHAT KIND OF LOUD NOISES FROM NEXT DOOR LADY...?
OH, THOSE KIND -sigh-...
LISSEN, WHY DONTCHA JUST STUFF SOME COTTON IN YOUR EARS AND GO BACK TO SLEEP, HUH...?
UND ON DOT NOTE, VE BID YOU A FOND "ADIEU, UND SEE YOU NEXT MONTH..."
27

Fantasy & Comic Art from BUD PLANT

Available only from specialty stores or from us!

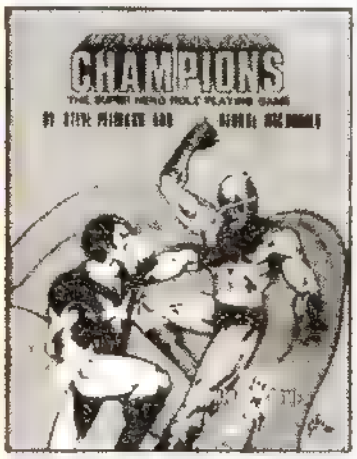
Frank Brunner's STORMBRINGER Portfolio
By the artist of **Warp!** Six exciting full color paintings the best work ever seen featuring Michael Moorcock's hero of sword & sorcery, **Elric** and his sword that drinks men's souls! Personally signed and numbered to one of 750. **$20.00**



"Alternative" COMICS

Sabre #1 2	$1.00 ea
Marvel Fanfare #5, 6	
	$1.50 ea
Ironjaw #1 2 A w	$1.00 ea
#3 4	$1.25 ea
#5	$1.50
Super Heroes	
Batman	
Howlmen	
#7-12 and	
Vol2N3	$1.00 ea
Capt Canuck #10-14	
Summer Special	$1.00 ea
First Kingdom	
#2-10	$1.00 ea
#11 12 13	$1.25 ea
#14-16	$1.50 ea
#17	$1.75
Capt Victory	
#2 4-9	$1.00
#3	$2.00
Starslayer	
#2 3 4	$1.00 ea
Warp #1	$1.00
Ms Mystic #1	$1.00
Pacific Presents #1	
– Stevens' Rocketeer	$1.00
Destroyer Duck #1,2	
	$1.50 ea
Cerebus #25-28, 38-43	$1.50 ea
Elliquest #1-13	$1.50 ea
Justice Machine #3, 4	
– new hero team	$2.25 ea
Norma	
#2	$1.95
#3	$2.95

THE SUPER HEROES GAME



CHAMPIONS
The Superhero Role Playing Game
Create your favorite superhero and pit him against villains in this exciting new game. Choose from 75 separate super powers! What **Dungeons & Dragons** did for fantasy, this does for superheroes! Complete with detailed perspective street map, **Viper's Nest** campaign, character sheets, dice and more. Boxed **$14.95**

FREE Catalog With Every Order.
Send to: BUD PLANT INC., P.O. Box 1886W2, Grass Valley, Ca. 95945

FAST... CONSISTENT SERVICE!

- ACCURATE BOOKKEEPING
- DIRECT SHIPPING FROM OUR WAREHOUSES
- NO MINIMUM PER TITLE
- DISCOUNTS TO 55%

SEND FOR OUR FREE! MONTHLY CATALOG

124 VANDALIA
COLLINSVILLE IL.
62234

YOUR GATEWAY TO... FANTASY

We've noticed one interesting habit of E-Man readers: after sending out special black-and-white preview copies (otherwise known as "photocopies") of our first issue to a random list of comics fans, we received back a number of really long letters . . . longer than those we've been receiving on Warp, longer than those we've seen when we were working for other comics publishers.

I'm not sure what that means – by and large, the longer letters were more literate, more informative, and more interesting – but I thought I should point out the phenomenon. Potential letter writers should consider this a challenge.

By the way, as we've pointed out in the past, you, too, can get on our random list of comics fans and receive special black-and-white preview copies of upcoming First Comics premiere issues – we will be sending out advance copies of Jon Sable Freelance, Starslayer and American Flagg to certain people who have written interesting (either favorable or unfavorable) letters to Warp and E-Man. So if you'd like to get in on the action, read this issue, think it over, run over to your typewriter, and send us a letter. With luck, our address is to be found at the top of this page.

Speaking about our letter writers . . .

Dear First,

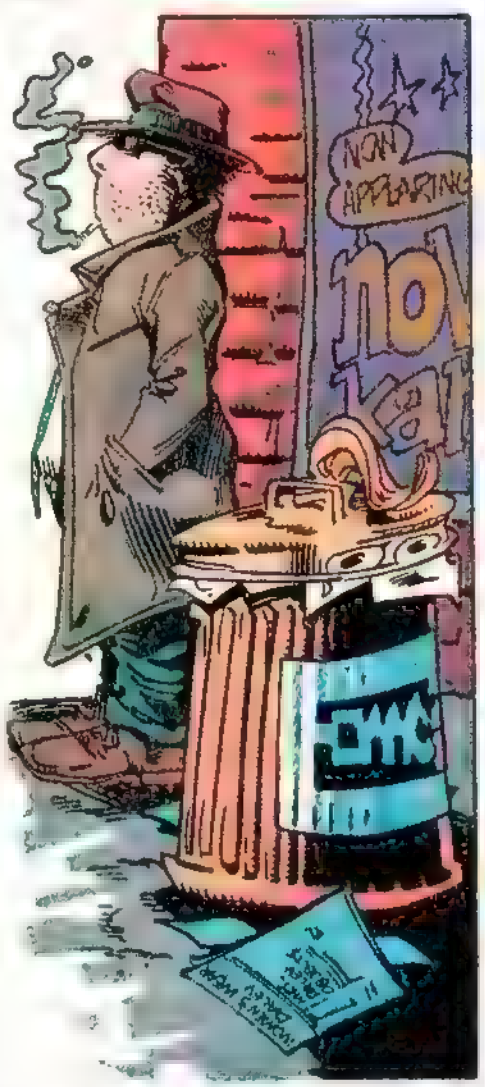
I want to thank you for choosing me as one of the few LOC-smiths (Letter Of Comment) to preview E-Man #1. I guess that means I've "made it." I have always been jealous of others who received preview copies of new books because the editors wanted "quick" letters to print. Now I'm on the other side, and I'll probably end up making some new 15 year old jealous. Everything goes in cycles, after all.

Seeing Joe Staton, one of my favorite artists, draw E-Man again brought back memories of when I was 15, and had just "come out of the closet" as a comic book fan. But the past is not as important as the future, and you've got a heckuva future!

Marty Pasko is the perfect writer for E-Man. "Serious" comics are not his only specialty. Joe Staton, of course, belongs with E-Man. His style is perfectly suited for the whimsy of the strip.

"Whimsy?" Hey, this isn't kiddie stuff here, although children will love it. It is funny that you mentioned EC in "First Notes" because there were parts of the story that reminded me of the classic early Mad.

What I would like to see in the future is more satire! There would seem to be a lot of things that Pasko and Staton could sink their teeth into . . . not just movies and comic books, but life in general. As long as the humor is not cutting, that is as long as you do not belittle anyone or anything you are satirizing, this book will be a success.



By the way, if Mr. Byrne could find his way free to do a new ROG-2000 story, I don't think I would mind.

Mike Sopp
438 W. 32
Erie, PA

Mike, there's a fine line between satire and what I believe you define as "cutting humor," one that we here at First Comics tend to draw with a french curve. I suspect some narrow-minded or insecure people are likely to take our barbs too seriously.

Luckily, producer/director Steven Spielberg is not one of those people. Last fall, publisher Rick Obadiah had lunch with the man, and fearlessly took the opportunity to show him an advance copy of* E-Man *#1. Spielberg thumbed through the copy and did a lot of giggling.

Now, this might not mean we can necessarily look forward to Close Encounters of the E-Man Kind, or Raiders of the Lost Mauser, but, hey, one can hope!

Dear Editor:

Back in 1974, I was a high school student with acne and braces and a hundred thousand stray comic books in various stages of degeneration; the industry output was terrific that year, every company's line riding a crest of creative zeal, and among those titles, E-Man was unique.

It's 1983, and I'm a program analyst for the City of Chicago, with a freelance writing career and four major credit cards, and only a few comic books left, tucked away in mylar for posterity and boxed; and the comics industry is again enjoying a creative boom of a different sort entirely, but some things don't change. E-Man is back, and still unique.

Not that he hasn't changed as well; the differences between Nicola Cuti and Martin Pasko guarantee that. In place of the old innocence (a sad casualty, but necessary – funny how 1974 suddenly seems like those elysian, idyllic days of ridiculous illusion) is a scampy, knowing sexuality and wit. Being eight years older myself, I can appreciate this: I may miss the guileless, ingenuous E-Man of 1974, but the Laughing Philosopher who plays the title role in First Comics' resurrection has much more to say to those of us who daily have to make sense of the senseless.

As a result, I can forgive – and even approve – the changes in the old Charlton continuity. Indeed, I wouldn't even have minded starting at Square One again, with Nova a human being; it would've saved you the trouble of changing her back in a few issues (a reversal of which I am thoroughly in favor, by the way)

Pasko's script for the first issue was very funny; on that score, there's no real argument at all. But I hate to think he's making the stories too topical; the old E-Man series is as enjoyable today as it was eight years ago, but eight years from now, who's going to chuckle over Steven Spielberg and Phil Donahue jokes?

As for Staton's contribution: it's nice to see how much of his original E-Man style he's retained. As one of the premier house artists at DC, he conformed to accepted super-hero drawing standards, al-

though always with his own ingenious flair, climaxing in his superb visual conception of the Huntress, undoubtably the effort for which his DC career will be remembered.

But E-Man #1 shows that there is little chance of his becoming lost in the orthodox; there's still incredible verve, wit, and energy in his art, and a maturity of composition that shows that the years between E-Man #10 and E-Man #1 have been years of growth indeed.

The ROG 2000 "ad" was a special delight, by the way; I wasn't at all expecting it. Talk about jogging memories . . .

Bob Rodi
2811 N. Pine Grove
Chicago, Illinois

Doing an X-Men parody was a obvious idea. Marty, Joe and I each came onto it independently of one another – using it as the manner for restoring Nova's humanity justifies reminding people she once had super-powers, and was none too pleased about it.

I think eight years from now, Spielberg and Donahue will be remembered – and probably will be quite active – but I do understand your point. Satire, as I noted above, has its price. For me, the satire in the early 1950s Mad comic books is extremely effective today, and I was far too young to have understood them and the culture they were lampooning when they were first published. I think people will be doing jokes about Jaws, Raiders and E.T. for decades to come.

Dear Mike,

Thanks so much for sending me an advance copy of E-Man. It really meant a lot to be included among the few from which comments were solicited.

It is hard to know where to begin. Storywise, the title was the largest bellylaugh among an issue full of fun. I suppose, in light of his success, it was time somebody was to have a little fun at Steven Spielberg's expense – he can certainly afford it! I enjoyed the back-handed homage to such movies as "1941," "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "Poltergeist." I suspect that a good part of this was contributed by Joe Staton.

Art-wise, as much as I believe that Joe Staton is the only artist that could do E-Man justice, I found myself constantly distracted by the barrage of sight gags and in-jokes. Perhaps the addition of color will clear up some of the confusion. Still, I find myself longing for the cleaner, less cluttered work that I have seen Staton turn out. The cover, by the way, was beautiful.

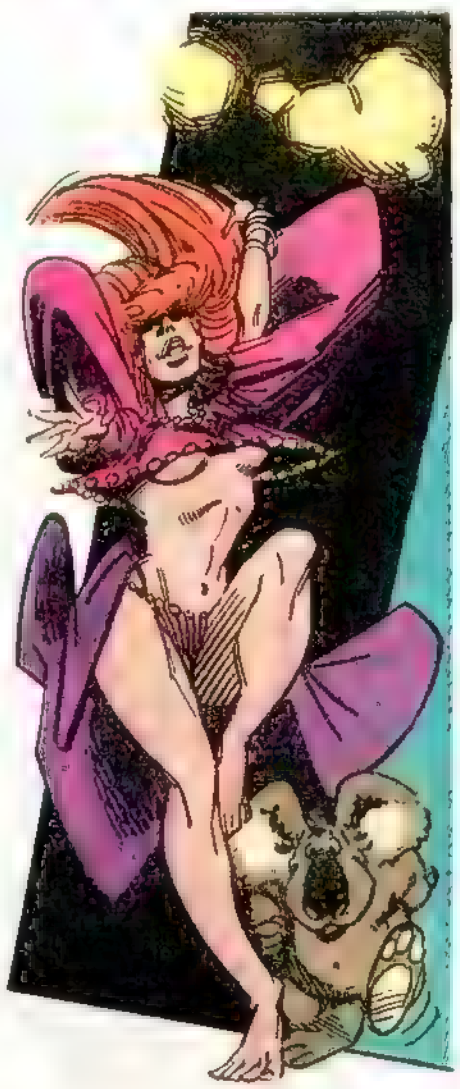
Pasko has promised us quite a future for E-Man. I wonder what is going to happen to Nova Kane's super-career, and, more importantly, what's going to happen to her relationship with E-Man. I also look forward to more of Mike Mauser (I couldn't think of more appropriate reading material for Mr. Mauser than his chosen "Mike Mist Minute Mist-eries!")

Welcome, First Comics. Welcome back, E-Man. I wish you a long and entertaining future!

Mike Christiansen
704 So. Third Street
Rockford, Illinois

Well, Mike, now you know what's happened to Nova's super-career. I'll reveal a secret: now that she's no longer superpowered, we can turn her into Ben Grimm!

No doubt you noticed Mike Mist's guest appearance last issue. Maybe in an upcoming Mike Mist story, Mike'll be seen reading a Mike Mauser story!



Dear Sir,

Before I comment on the first issue of E-Man, I feel it only fair to issue this disclaimer: I'm strictly a DC fan. Furthermore, up until the day your sample dropped into my unsuspecting mailbox, I'd never laid eyes on the character. So just remember, You Asked For It!

Frankly, the strongest impression I have of E-Man is that it looks a lot like "Mork and Mindy Go Super-Hero." That's not meant as a dig at E-Man by any means.

I can see why E-Man developed into a fan phenomenon his first time around. His origin and overall legend would do credit to a more conventional character, and when you inject the tongue-in-cheek approach that goes right down to the captions . . . I was reminded strongly of Pasko's and Staton's inspired lunacy with the Plastic Man and Metal Men revivals even before I read Mike Gold editorially making the same comparison.

Getting to the story itself:

I don't know about Nova's remark about needing a real man. It seems clear from Alec's meek acquiescence to Nova's reproachful admonition that he doesn't yet have the self-respect held by Mork (though in all fairness, Alec doesn't go about bemoaning his lack of humanity and competence the way DC's Red Tornado did for so many years either). What Nova said to Alec is also revealing in terms of her own personality. Rare indeed is the super-hero who doesn't share Nova's sentiments at one time or another. The catch is, the same remark could apply even more so to the exotic dancing profession.

By the way, what on Earth was that teddy bear about, anyway?

Gary Thompson
3701 Roosevelt
Dearborn, Michigan

It should be pointed out E-Man preceeded the launch of Mork and Mindy by some time. Mork's personality solely revolved around the considerable talents of Robin Williams; **E-Man** *is a fully realized, and completely created, fictional character.*

Personally, I'm not certain Nova needs a real man more than she needs to become a real person once again. Now that that has happened, time will tell.

****

Lee Marrs' Pudge Girl Blimp in this issue marks her first appearance in some time: her earlier adventures lurk in a trio of undergrounds published by Star*Reach and possibly available through stores and mail order outfits that keep some back issues in stock. They are highly, and extremely, recommended – to so-called adults.

NEXT MONTH: Nova's popped from this issue's metamorphosis, and so is writer Pasko. So next issue will see a trio of unusual **E-Man** epics: **Mike W. Barr** scripts a 19 page **E-Man** thriller, wherein our cast take on a rabid comics collector and his "Paper Bomb." Joe Staton, to no one's surprise, turns in the art. Barr and **Rick Burchett** – the latter of whom drew the Mike Mauser solo story published last year in Charlton Bullseye – offer an eight page Mauser back-up story, "Mauser P.I." (don't be too surprised if the tale takes the little man with the big gun to Hawaii). And Bruce Patterson "writes" and draws a one-page solo adventure featuring Teddy Q – this page as part of our on-going advertising send-up slot.

See you in March!

– Mike Gold

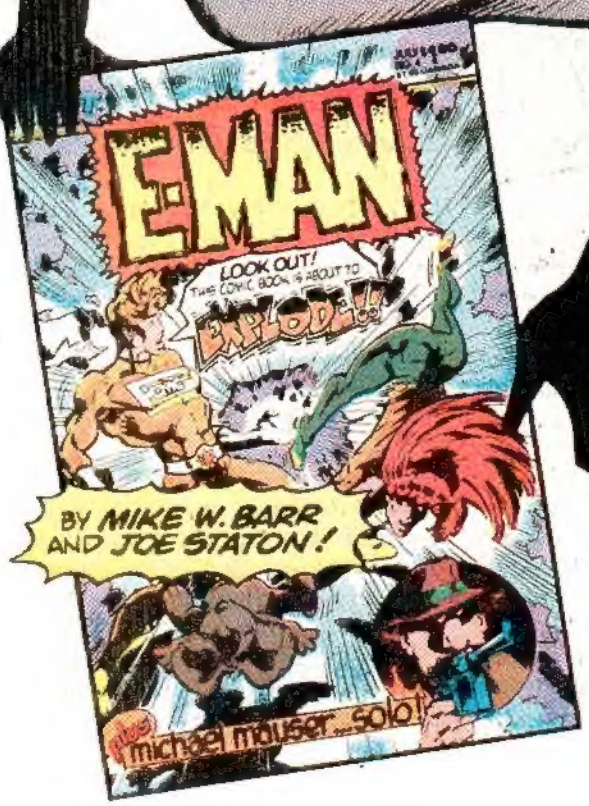
FIRST™ COMICS IN MARCH!

CHAOS & VALARIA! TOGETHER AGAIN... FOR THE FIRST TIME?!

BY PETER GILLIS, HOWARD CHAYKIN, AND GEORGE FREEMAN!

BY MIKE GRELL!

DEATH IS A BUM DEAL!



BY MIKE W. BARR AND JOE STATON!

TM & © FIRST COMICS INC 1983

SUBSCRIBE! GET 1 FREE ISSUE!

MAILED DIRECT IN A STURDY PROTECTIVE ENVELOPE!

Please send me a 1 year (12 issue) subscription to:

- ☐ WARP
- ☐ E-MAN
- ☐ JON SABLE FREELANCE
- ☐ STARSLAYER
- ☐ AMERICAN FLAGG

Enclosed is $11.00 per subscription.*

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING 1014 DAVIS ST., EVANSTON, IL 60201

*$13.75-Canada / $27.00-U.K. All Payments in U.S. Funds!

PUDGE, GIRL BLIMP™ in THE CUPCAKE CAPER

BLAM!
RATATATAT!!
BANG!!
CROOKS! AW, THEY'RE ONLY KIDS..
STOP! THIEVES!
©'82 LEE MARRS
GOTCHA!
CONGRATS, HONEY. NOW WE'LL PACK YOU INTO THIS SQUAD CAR. WE HAVE TO TAKE YOUR STATEMENT AS A WITNESS.
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN..
BUT... I'LL BE LATE FOR LUNCH!
UHH.. A-P-P-R-E-H-E-
HMM... A LIL SNACK.
WHAT?! YOU'VE EATEN UP ALL THE EVIDENCE!! AH!
THEY WERE STEALIN' CUPCAKES?
YOU MUST BE AN ACCOMPLICE! PART OF THE ROTTEN, NATION-WIDE CONSPIRACY TO DEFEAT ALL THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF REAGANOMICS! DISSOLVING OUR LAW AND ORDER TO...
MACHINEGUNS OVER CUPCAKES?
THEY WERE STALE, ANYWAY.
WOULD THE COURTS ALLOW A PHOTO OF HER FACE? MAYBE WE CAN PUMP OUT HER STOMACH...
YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF MOSTESS CUPCAKES

True, There's More to Life Than Just Science Fiction Films...

Films, television, comics, theater, toys, games, masks, costumes, comic art, books, electronic toys, t-shirts, greeting cards, horror, fantasy, science fiction. Five years ago, nobody could have foreseen the explosion of imaginative media into the billion-dollar industry it is today. But thanks to precedent-setting films such as "Star Wars" and "Superman," and the tremendous growth in popularity of science fiction, fantasy and horror novels, a huge, mass market audience has been created, and it is a whole lot more than just movies.

SPECIAL 5th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE
Featuring: An Exclusive Interview with
STAR TREK'S WILLIAM SHATNER
DARK CRYSTAL and CREEPSHOW
FANTASTIC FILMS
The Magazine of Imaginative Media
SPIELBERG Talks About E.T.
Also: SPECIAL EFFECTS Interviews With
• DOUGLAS TRUMBULL on BLADE RUNNER •
RICHARD EDLUND and JOHN BRUNO of ILM on
POLTERGEIST • JOHN DYKSTRA on FIREFOX •
ROB BOTTIN on THE THING • SYD MEAD on TRON

FANTASTIC FILMS is "The" Magazine of Imaginative Media, a publication which speaks to that mass audience in their own language, with intelligence, clarity and authority.

Each issue is filled with lively, in-depth interviews, informative, sometimes controversial articles, fascinating and unusual special features, easy to understand explanations of special effects and a behind-the-scene look at films, television, and all other imaginative media.

Fantastic Films. The complete guide to imaginative media.

Fantastic Films. Satisfy your Sense of Wonder.

But not much that's more enjoyable!

SATISFY YOUR SENSE OF WONDER AND SUBSCRIBE NOW!

FANTASTIC FILMS
The Magazine of Imaginative Media

Send to:
FANTASTIC FILMS MAGAZINE
P.O. BOX 245
MT. MORRIS, ILLINOIS 61054

$15.00 per year (U.S.)
$17.25 per year (Canadian)
$23.00 per year (Foreign)

OR CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-435-0715
(In Illinois call 1-800-892-0753)
TO CHARGE IT OR HAVE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION BILLED TO YOU

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Enclosed is my ☐ check ☐ money order ☐ bill me or charge to my ☐ Visa ☐ Master Charge
Exp. Date _____
Interbank No. _____
Signature, Date _____

FIRST COMICS IN APRIL!

TORIN MAC QUILLON LIVES ON--

--IN THE ALL-NEW, MONTHLY ADVENTURES OF MIKE GRELL'S STARSLAYER the log of the Jolly Roger™

THE LEGEND CONTINUES!

TM & © FIRST COMICS, INC. 1983

SUBSCRIBE! GET 1 FREE ISSUE!

MAILED DIRECT IN A STURDY PROTECTIVE ENVELOPE!

Please send me a 1 year (12 issue) subscription to:

- ☐ WARP
- ☐ E-MAN
- ☐ JON SABLE FREELANCE
- ☐ STARSLAYER
- ☐ AMERICAN FLAGG

Enclosed is $11.00 per subscription.*

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING
1014 DAVIS ST., EVANSTON, IL. 60201

*$13.75-Canada / $27.00-U.K.
All Payments in U.S. Funds!